soap OPERA digest

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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Tamara Braun On DAYS Exit

"It's never fun to say good-bye."

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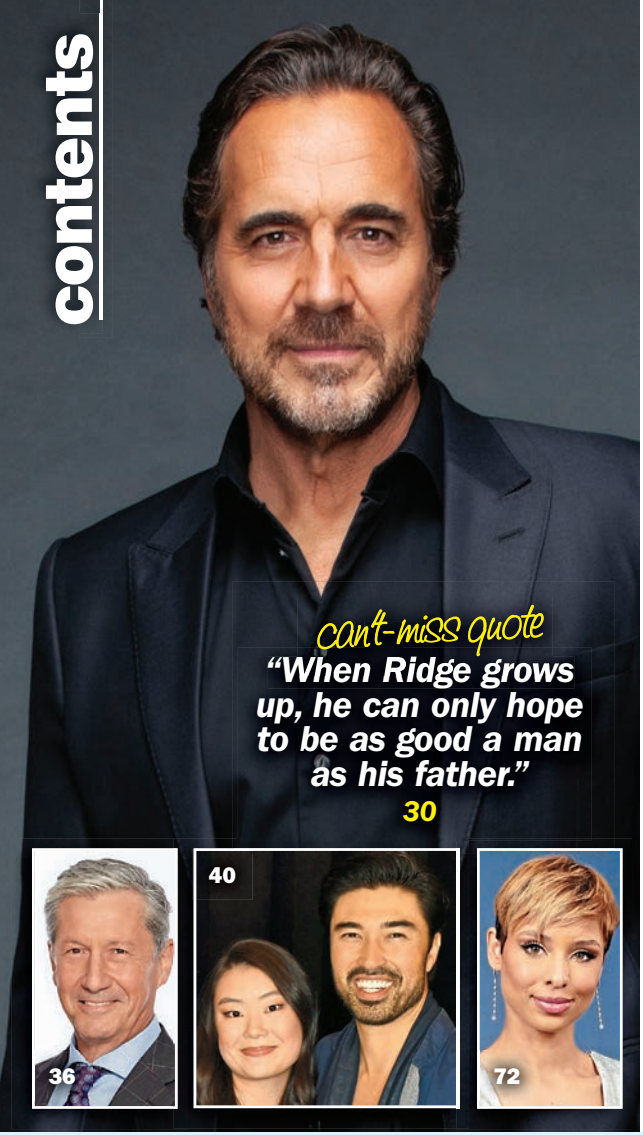

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COVER CREDITS: Lauralee Bell (Christine, Y&R). Photo: Elaine Lee Photography. Michael Damian (Danny, Y&R). Photo: Howard Wise/JPI. Don Diamont (Bill, B&B). Photo: AFF/OA/Steven Bergman. Tamara Braun (Ava, DAYS). Photo: Chris Haston/NBC.

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late-breaking news

hot off the press

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PHOTOS: XJ JONSON/JPI

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TAMARA BRAUN ON DAYS EXIT

It's the end of the line (for now) for Ava, who was carted off to Bayview Sanitarium. Here, Tamara Braun looks back on her most recent run.

Soap Opera Digest: When did you find out Ava would be written out?

Tamara Braun: I found out when I read a script that had Ava doing something quite uncharacteristic for her so I called to find out what was going on. I spoke to the producers and it was discussed that the character would leave the canvas for now but the door would be open with the potential to return at a later date.

Digest: How did you react?

Braun: I was disappointed for a variety of reasons but mostly because it meant leaving the cast and crew that I really love working with.

Digest: Did you tell your co-stars? How did they react?

Braun: I did not tell most people for quite a while. Many didn't know until my last day. People were disappointed. It's never fun to say good-bye to people you enjoy working with. I hate it when people I liked were written off, even if I suspected they'd be back. I told Carson [Boatman, Johnny] and Dan [Feuerriegel, EJ] because ultimately my leaving would have an impact on their characters' storylines and I wanted them to be prepared.

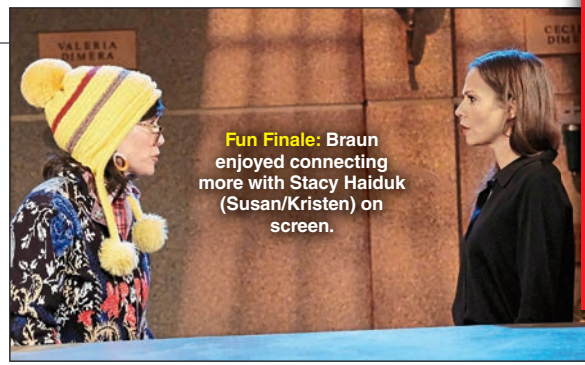
Digest: What will you miss about being at DAYS?

Braun: I have already been gone almost five months, so what I already miss about it is the camaraderie. I really do love the DAYS set a lot. The people are kind and care for one another. We support one another, want to see each other thrive. That's rare and so lovely. So, I already miss my pals, having a steady job, having that routine, being able to play. Ultimately, everything is about human connection for me. So, I miss my people! My co-stars, hair and makeup, directors, producers, all crew really. The security

guards, the Covid team, oh, and the nasal swabs ... I really miss the nasal swabs!

Digest: What were the highlights of this last run as Ava?

Braun: The highlights for me were the wonderful new people I got to work with and befriend, and getting to be with the old ones that I had the pleasure to work with again.



Fun Finale: Braun enjoyed connecting more with Stacy Haiduk (Susan/Kristen) on screen.

Digest: You got to cross paths with a lot of actors this time around. Tell us about working with Stacy Haiduk (Kristen/Susan).

Braun: What a warm, beautiful, brilliant actress! She is so fun, dynamic and amazing! I *loved* working with Stacy. We didn't get to work together as much as I would have liked but when we did I was always so grateful!

Digest: Brandon Barash (Jake/Stefan)?

Braun: How fantastic is he? What a truly wonderful actor. He always offered me tea and I always accepted! He's quite the connoisseur. Bummed that the relationship between Ava and Jake didn't get fleshed out. We had such a fun time working together. He's quite a talent and the way he talks about his daughter?! Gotta love a devoted dad.

Digest: Camila Banus (Gabi)?

Braun: I've said it before and will again. I always had to remind myself to stop being an audience member when we were in scenes together because I was so entertained by "Gabi's" antics. I was so charmed by Camila's portrayal that I would have to remind myself that I was playing her nemesis and to snap out of it! Camila is so beautiful, funny, entertaining, and that hair?! Come on, now!

Digest: Carson Boatman?

Braun: What a sweetheart! We didn't get to work together for as long as I had hoped. He is professional, kind, caring, willing to explore in our scenes. I loved working with Carson.

Digest: Dan Feuerriegel?

Braun: We had a lot of fun sparring as Ava and EJ. He's playful, prepared, silly, fun. I got to be lighter working with him and that was really nice. He always talked about taking my dressing room if I ever left. I told him he was going to have it sooner than he thought. Hope you're enjoying it, Dan! Did you find the present I left you?

Digest: What does it mean to you that you got to revisit Ava?

Braun: I'm always grateful when DAYS calls to see about my interest in coming back. This time was especially important to me because it was during the height of the pandemic. To go back and revisit the character at such an uncertain time in our lives was a gift. I was able to get out of my house, be in contact with other humans again, be protected to the best of the show's abilities — they had amazing protocols — and work at a time when so many were not able to. It is not wasted on me how fortunate I was. I'm very grateful on such a deep level. These have been rough years and when I went back, it was a blessing. I'm very grateful on many levels.

Digest: Any message for the fans?

Braun: It's always the same message for the lovely fans: I thank you for all the love and support you have shown me and Ava — in all her complicatedness — over the years. It's everything! It means the world to me and I send you love and gratitude and wish you health and happiness always. Until we meet again ...

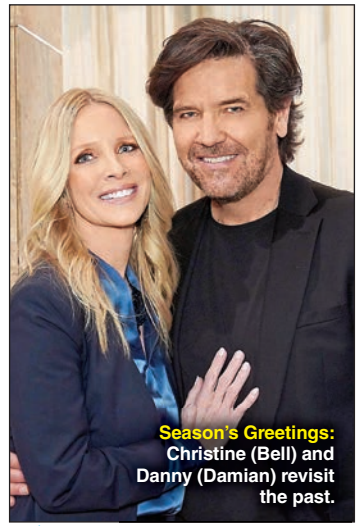
Y&R: CRICKET AND DANNY REUNITE

At Crimson Lights, a pensive Danny is sitting at a table, considering whether or not to call his ex-wife, Christine. "He looks up and there she is. Cricket," begins Michael Damian (Danny). "Here he's really thinking about her and she appears. It's a very surreal moment."

The former spouses are genuinely thrilled to see each other. "It's definitely a shock for Chris," picks up Lauralee Bell (Christine). "She knew Danny was in town but she assumed they wouldn't cross paths, so it's wonderful timing that they run into each other."

The warmth between these old friends, who haven't seen each other in almost 10 years, is immediately evident. "It's a very special moment," enthuses Damian. "They fall back into their groove pretty quickly. The unspoken words and the emotions are swirling around them."

Not surprisingly, the couple is soon reminiscing, which means cue the meaningful flashbacks. "We look so young, like we were 12," chuckles Bell. "As they walk down memory lane, we see how their friendship turned into something more. In fact, it's almost hard to grasp that they were married because it was so long ago."



Season's Greetings: Christine (Bell) and Danny (Damian) revisit the past.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Plus, Damian points out, "Cricket is happily married now [to Paul], but there's still a very, very special connection between her and Danny. No words have to be said when it comes to the two of them."

However, along with the happy recollections come the not-so-happy ones. "Things get awkwardly intense," Bell sighs. "They remember how suddenly Chris was telling Danny what a jerk he was for getting involved with Phyllis. Overnight, Chris's world fell apart. They were these cute little young lovers until it all took that bad turn. It's just so strange how a single decision, or a mistake or whatever you want to call it, can really change the trajectory of everything. They haven't talked about this for years but the hurt is still there."

Though their visit comes to an end when Mariah and Tessa show up to meet with Christine, "They have this kind of amazing reunion," Bell smiles. "It covers happiness and it covers some sadness, and it is a nice way to reintroduce them." And when it's time to go, Christine and Danny leave the coffee shop together "into the unknown," Bell teases. "Maybe down the line we'll find out if anything happened after they left. Maybe nothing at all, or maybe something did."

DAYS: XANDER IS BUSTED!

The walls are closing in on Xander, who is already under suspicion for kidnapping Bonnie, so he surprises Sarah with a trip to Greece. "Xander thinks he may have gotten away with this in the near term, and the best thing to do is to get out of there before anything else comes up," explains Paul Telfer (Xander). "So why not have a nice romantic getaway and also get Sarah away from anybody who might notice and reveal any more clues or inconsistencies in Xander and Gwen's cover-up? While the coast is clear, he wants to get the hell out of Salem."

Cold, Hard Truth: Xander (Telfer) is forced to come clean with Sarah (Linsey Godfrey).

KJ JOHNSON/JPI

Meanwhile, Bonnie and Justin figure out that Rednax, the company Xander claimed to be working for, is a ruse, and Gwen is forced to cover. After, Gwen alerts her pal to the latest development. "[Xander is feeling] panic, both in the sense of not wanting to get caught criminally, and also the sheer terror of Sarah finding out what he did and that he's been lying to her about it," says Telfer. "The lie is almost worse at this point, because he's had multiple opportunities to come clean and throw himself on her mercy."

The jig is up sooner than Xander expects, when Sarah, who has followed him, reveals herself. "Ultimately, Xander has no excuses," sighs the actor. "It just comes down to a weakness of character, to ego and this desperate need to become something that he isn't. That's been his problem during his entire tenure on the show and in his relationship with Sarah. Instead of just being the person that Sarah needs him to be, which is this loving, honest, caring man, he has this idea of what he needs to be, which is a solid businessman with all this money coming in, a house and responsibility. All those things have to be earned, but he wants to cut the line and skip straight to having them. This happened again, when he was, in his mind, lured into the Susan kidnapping by Ava. None of these are good enough reasons to kidnap somebody — that you didn't have very much money and you were feeling a bit insecure. It's just like when he did the whole thing with Mickey and the baby swap. His excuse was he did it for love."

Will Sarah forgive Xander or is this the last straw for the couple? "There's nowhere for Xander to hide, emotionally, from what he's done to himself," states Telfer, noting that his alter ego "is devastated" at the prospect of losing his wife. "But he's had this hanging over him for weeks, the fact that he's done something that could lead to the end of their relationship."

B&B: SHEILA REVEALS HERSELF TO STEFFY AND FINN

During a huge storm, Sheila arrives at Finn and Steffy's house, cuts the power, then barges in, claiming that she wants to be a family with them. "Desperate people do desperate things," acknowledges portrayer Kimberlin Brown of Sheila's actions. "The one thing she wants most in her life is the love of her son and grandson. Sheila is at a point now where she is pleading and begging for that opportunity. We know that Steffy has been less than accommodating, which has been really difficult for Sheila, but let's be honest, when she cuts the power off to somebody's home, she means business."

In The House: Sheila (Brown, l.) tries to plead her case to Finn (Tanner Novlan) and Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Needless to say, Steffy and Finn are shocked by their unexpected visitor. "Well, in all fairness, Sheila has been known to show up at the most inopportune times," chuckles Brown. "This situation that she walks in on is when they are 100 percent vulnerable. So, shock is putting it mildly when they see Sheila come through that door. But now, she finally has the opportunity to speak from her heart."

Once Sheila has their attention, she takes the chance to explain her point of view. "That is actually a problem," notes the actress. "Sheila states her case and yet it's always, 'You shot your son!' and it's like, 'No, I did not. He stepped in front of a bullet for you!' Sheila tries to explain how she felt backed into a corner and all that propelled those events that happened. Sheila has never really had an opportunity to tell her side to them."

"She finally has the opportunity to speak from her heart."

Neither Steffy nor Finn is buying Sheila's rationale. "The minute she tries to explain her actions and why they occurred, she is cut off," sighs Brown. "She is caught in a vulnerable position and she's really hopeful that they will listen." As slim as those chances are, Brown asserts that Sheila only wants her family to be whole. "Sheila definitely thinks there is potential for that; otherwise, she wouldn't have gone through all of what she has been going through. She definitely thinks there is a path to family, or she would not be trying as hard. She is not giving up now. She has made the decision that, 'I'm not quitting. I just want to be heard.' "

GH: HEATHER STRIKES A DEAL WITH THE PCPD

By Hook Or By Crook: Heather (Mills) has ulterior motives for offering help to Dante (Dominic Zamprogna).

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

■ Heather dangles the promise of getting info about Esme out of Ryan to the PCPD in order to delay her return to D'Archam.

At G.H., Heather once again crosses paths with Dante. According to portrayer Alley Mills, "Heather is a flirt, and she enjoys flirting with Dante." Heather indicates to him that she might be able to assist in the authorities' efforts to track down Esme, who is the chief suspect in The Hook killings, prompting him to summon Mac and Robert. "They are curious to hear what Heather has to offer. I say, 'Man, aren't you interested in finding The Hook? Because, you know, I could help you. In fact, if anybody can help you, it would be me, because clearly, you guys think that it's Esme, and I know Ryan because I've got a relationship with him.' I don't tell them what it is, but I say, 'I've got access to him in a way that nobody else does, trust me.' She is offering to kind of screw with Ryan and expose his connection to Esme as if there's something in that for them, like some kind of juicy possibility of guilt."

Of course, Heather has no actual intention of leading the cops in Esme's direction — after all, she is (secretly) Esme's mother! "I think at this point, the audience can tell that Heather genuinely loves Esme," Mills says. "But Heather is very smart and all she really wants to do is stay at Spring Ridge. She doesn't want to go back to D'Archam, which she is supposed to do right after this appointment she has at G.H. with Portia. Heather knows that if she is at Spring Ridge, she at least has a shot of finding Esme and doing whatever it is she is going to do with Ryan, whereas if she's at D'Archam, she's screwed. She will lose contact with him. So Heather is just working on her feet really fast the minute she sees Dante, offering up the possibility that they can use her to get information. 'Ryan knows stuff about Esme. They had some kind of relationship. I don't know what it was, but all the guards are saying they had some sort of closeness and talked a lot. I can find out what that's all about and I bet I can get you right to Esme!' "

Mac and Robert end up biting. "I just keep sneering at them, and we end up making a deal," sums up Mills. "They agree to give her more time at Spring Ridge and that's exactly what she was after. Heather always finds a way!"

Quick Take with Avery Pohl (Esme, GH)

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

Esme's been stuck in the Wyndemere tower for quite some time now and we're seeing how very antsy she is getting. "Yes, I'm not gonna lie, I'm a little antsy, too! I love the tower set; I think it's so fun, but I'm ready for a change of scenery — and I'm pretty sure Esme was ready for a change of scenery about 20 episodes ago."

The entrance of the Elizabeth character into your storyline has been fun to watch. You'd never had scenes with Rebecca Herbst (Elizabeth) before. "No, I don't even think I'd ever really seen her in the hallway before, to be completely honest! Which I think is just wild because of all the stuff with the trial and the Cam/Joss sex tape. I was really surprised that there wasn't interaction between Elizabeth and Esme at that time, although Esme was really only at the trial for one episode. She popped in, did her 'I'm the picture of innocence' thing and hopped out as quickly as humanly possible [*laughs*]! I really like working with Becky. She gives me a lot to work with and because of that, I end up doing things in the scenes that were different from what I expected to do. She's fantastic. Such a pro, such a sweetheart, she's always got her stuff down and she's ready to go. I think when someone is super-easy to work with, it makes it that much more fun, and on top of that, she's an amazing performer. Also, I think it's really interesting having this maternal figure pop into Esme's life — not necessarily a maternal role model for her, specifically, but someone who certainly understands what it's like to have kids while Esme is trying to step into that role for the first time in her life. Especially considering that Elizabeth is helping Nikolas and considering what Esme did to Cameron."

We've seen some indication that Esme does truly care about the baby she's carrying. Do you think that's sincere? "I think she really does care about that baby. It might simply stem from the selfish point of view that yes, this baby can help her, but also, this baby is someone that she can love unconditionally and that will unconditionally love her, which she has not experienced in her life. So I think that's a really big thing for her. Plus, she's been stuck in this tower for so long, it probably feels like years to her, and she's talking to this baby and to her father, who's just a figment of her imagination — those are her companions at the moment."

You brought a lot of "eating for two" realism to those scenes where Esme scarfed down breakfast in front of Nik and Liz! "I *loved* filming those scenes. They gave me that plate of food and I had so much fun with it because Esme hadn't eaten in a while; she'd been trying the starvation tactic [to get Nikolas to release her] because desperate times call for desperate measures. So when she finally got to eat that plate of food, it was really fun to just go to town on some really cold eggs! I was like, 'Wow, I get free breakfast today!' I've had a lot of scenes where Esme feels incredibly trapped, but in those scenes, I felt a lot of freedom and it created some really fun moments."

EARLY EDITIONS!

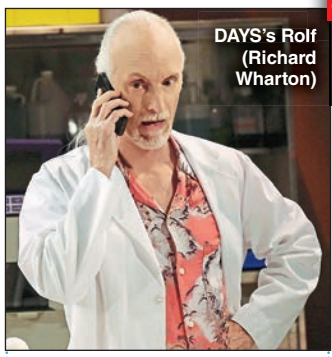
A preview of next week's stories.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

- **Sheila makes a surprising new move.**
- Steffy's past comes back to haunt her.
- An unexpected couple shares a kiss.

B&B's Sheila (Kimberlin Brown)

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI



DAYS's Rolf (Richard Wharton)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

- Brady has mixed feelings about his plan.
- **Li blasts Rolf.**
- Sarah makes a decision about her future with Xander.
- Stephanie confronts Alex.

GH's Liz (Rebecca Herbst)

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

GENERAL HOSPITAL

- The Hook strikes again.
- Trina voices her doubts.
- **Liz seeks Kevin's assistance.**

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

- Victor takes control.
- Jack makes a dangerous decision.
- Lily faces a tough decision.
- **Devon and Abby turn up the heat.**

Y&R's Devon (Bryton James) and Abby (Melissa Ordway)

RATINGS RACE: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28

The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,238,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

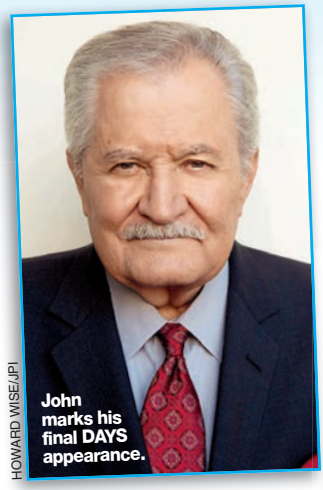
- YOUNG AND RESTLESS 2.33
- BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL 2.19
- GENERAL HOSPITAL 1.46

** DAYS's ratings are not available from Peacock.*

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH

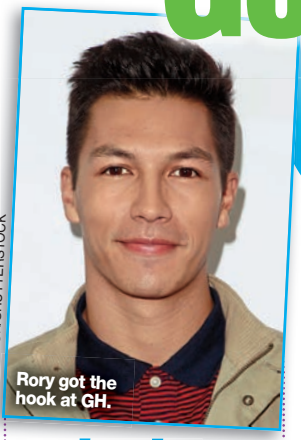
Comings and Goings

the latest cast changes



HOWARD WISE/JPI

John marks his final DAYS appearance.



MEDIAPUNCH/SHUTTERSTOCK

Rory got the hook at GH.

who's coming

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Patrika Darbo (Nancy Miller): Chloe (**Nadia Bjorlin**) catches up with her mom in New York City.

Chandler Massey (Will Horton): Will returns on December 26 and finds an unexpected guest chez Kiriakis. See page 14 for more.

who's going

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

John Aniston (Victor Kiriakis): The actor, who passed away on November 11 at the age of 89, will mark his final air date on December 26.

Tamara Braun (Ava Vitali): The actress's most current run has come to an end. See page 4 for more.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Michael Blake Kruse (Rory Cabrera): Rory was felled by The Hook, marking the end of Kruse's GH run. He first appeared on March 29, 2022.

CASTING ABOUT

■ **Debbi Morgan** (ex-Angie, ALL MY CHILDREN et al, r.) will star in the Lifetime flick based on the life of R&B singer **Keyshia Cole**. Morgan will play the chanteuse's mother, **Francine "Frankie" Lons**.... **Emily O'Brien** (Gwen, DAYS) will voice the characters Talia al Ghul and Martha Wayne in the 1920s-set film *Batman: The Doom That Came To Gotham*.... **Ray Wise** (ex-Ian, Y&R et al) has wrapped the horror movie *The Blue Rose*, which will be released in 2023.

STEVEN BERGMAN

REAL-LIFE STATUS

INSTAGRAM/SWICKARD

■ **Blue Streak: Josh Swickard** (Chase, GH) and wife **Lauren** revealed that the baby they are expecting is a boy. She posted on Instagram, "we are over the moon excited to meet you baby BOY!!!!!!!!!! @joshswickard - watching you be the most amazing Dada to our babies is my favorite thing. I love you to the moon." The couple is already parents to daughter **Savannah**, who will turn 2 in April.

■ **In Memoriam: Al Strobel**, who played Phillip Gerard (a.k.a. "The One-Armed Man") on TWIN PEAKS, passed away on December 2. He was 83. **Dana Ashbrook** (ex-Bobby) posted on social media, "Sad, sad news…love Al. He was the sweetest of men. A wonderful storyteller… and to watch him roll a one-handed cigarette — pure magic." Strobel lost his left arm in a car accident when he was 17, and appeared in all three chapters of the PEAKS saga, including its last revival in 2017.

STUFF WE KNOW *(and shouldn't tell you)*

■ This performer is reportedly terrorizing the crew and cast at their soap, unleashing their fury on producers, directors, and other crew. Staff does their best to avoid contact, but co-stars and key departments are forced to smile and play nice to not upset production. It's a tense situation.... This soap is keeping a lid on which cast member, who figures prominently in a current storyline, tested positive for Covid and had to quarantine at home..... This actor declined naming his/her significant other, although that person's identity is prominently displayed on social media.... It has become obvious to the co-stars of one leading lady that she feels threatened by the rising storyline prominence of a more recent hire.... Look for two familiar faces to surface on this soap in the coming weeks.

MONARCH CANCELED

■ The FOX prime-time sudser MONARCH has been canceled after one season. Starring **Susan Sarandon** (Dottie; ex-Sarah, SEARCH FOR TOMORROW) and **Trace Adkins** (Albie), the drama centered on the trials and tribulations of the first family of country music. The final episode aired December 6.

Hot Plots Pr

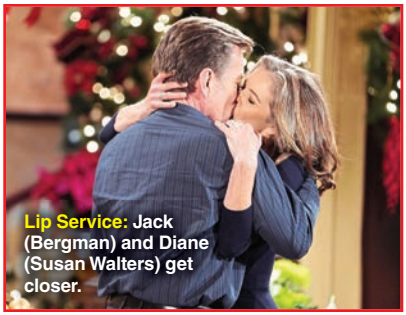
BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL
Thomas Faces His Fate

In the wake of his Brooke-centric CPS lie, Thomas's future at Forrester Creations is in jeopardy. "Thomas did something bad and everyone is going to jump on him," allows Matthew Atkinson (Thomas). "He's coming into this situation thinking in the last three years, of all the things Thomas has done, this is not that bad. It's probably on par with what Steffy has done in the past year. Yes, he did something to make Brooke look bad, but it was something Brooke threatened to do and he knows it was a bad thing, but the greater story is Thomas has been getting better, aside from this slipup."

That is up to the board of FC to decide, and a meeting is called to address the situation. "Thomas doesn't expect the level of reaction he gets from these people," hedges Atkinson. "And, it's interesting to see people who were on his side now aren't, and people he thought weren't going to be on his side are." Once Thomas pleads his case, the deciding vote comes down to his father. Teases the actor, "This is going to be a test for both of them."

Above Board: Thomas (Atkinson) deals with the fallout of his actions.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI



Lip Service: Jack (Bergman) and Diane (Susan Walters) get closer.

YOUNG AND RESTLESS
Jack Kisses Diane

Diane returns to Genoa City and meets Jeremy at Society, where she pretends to consider the possibility of them getting back together, unaware that a protective Jack lurks nearby. "Out of concern, Jack shows up at the restaurant and sneaks through the back door so he can listen in on their conversation," explains his portrayer, Peter Bergman.

As Diane flirts with Jeremy, Jack can't help but be impressed by how Diane is handling the cad. "It's a pretty stunning performance from Diane," Bergman praises. "It's a level of focus and courage and guts that Jack is at once alarmed by *and* taken by. She's very good at this. He really admires her bravado and is almost frightened by it at the same time, but he finds it very impressive."

Later, at the Abbott manse, Jack tells Diane that he's uncomfortable with her plan to make Stark believe she wants to be part of his life again. "Diane tells Jack not to worry, that she's stronger because of him," previews the actor. "Jack then suggests another plan to get Jeremy out of their lives for good and as they talk this over, they kiss — and Jack is the instigator this time."

What Will Happen

DAYS OF OUR LIVES
Will Comes Home

Will returns to Salem and is less than thrilled to find Leo cozying up to Sonny. "He's in a little bit of shock and disbelief," begins Chandler Massey of Will's reaction. "I mean, considering their history with Leo, it seems like the last person that Sonny would want to be hanging out with."

Though Sonny insists that Leo has changed, Will isn't buying it and issues an ultimatum to his husband. "Basically, he says, 'I'm not staying here as long as he's staying here,' " previews Massey. "It doesn't go particularly well." Sonny refuses to make Leo leave, so Will walks out instead. "He's frustrated," explains the actor. "He knows the reason Sonny is doing it is because he's a sweetheart and he cares about people and wants to give Leo a second chance, but Will is just frustrated that Sonny is being that gullible."

As for what this means for "WilSon", Massey notes, "I feel any time your character is miserable, as an actor, you're happy because it means you're probably actually doing an interesting storyline."

Leo Rising: Will (Massey, r.) doesn't understand why Sonny (Zach Tinker) welcomed Leo into his home.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Last Dance: Austin (Roger Howarth) hopes Britt (Thiebaud) will change her post-party plans.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GENERAL HOSPITAL
Britt Prepares To Leave Town

Britt's nearest and dearest gather for her birthday party on New Year's Eve, with most guests unaware of her plan to slip out of town after the bash.

"I think she's come to terms with her decision," offers Kelly Thiebaud (Britt). "She doesn't want people to see what Huntington's will do to her. She doesn't want to be remembered that way. She's really clear about that. At the party, she wants to forget about the disease; she wants to be able to have fun in the moment with the people in her life that she's grown really close to and that support her. And I think that happens; she's present, she's taking it all in, she's happy and having the best time."

Austin, who is privy to Britt's secret plan, holds out hope that she'll have a last-minute change of heart. "He reminds her that she has so many people in Port Charles who love her," Thiebaud shares. "And when she's surrounded by all that love at the party, I do think she starts to question, 'Wait. What am I doing? There is so much love in my life here. Why am I leaving?' "

1st sneak peek LOOK photos

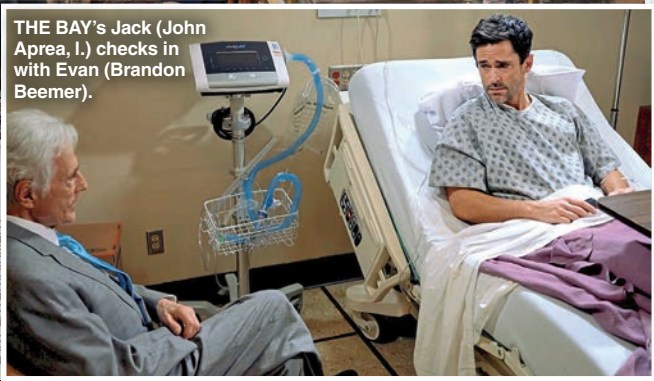
A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Y&R's Billy (Jason Thompson) and Chelsea (Melissa Claire Egan) are ready to wrap.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Y&R's Tucker (Trevor St. John, r.) pays a Yuletide visit to (from l.) Jack (Peter Bergman), Traci (Beth Maitland) and Ashley (Eileen Davidson).

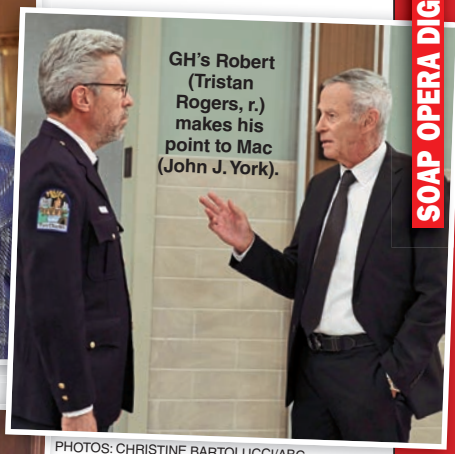


LANY ENTERTAINMENT

THE BAY's Jack (John Aprea, l.) checks in with Evan (Brandon Beemer).

An alarmed Liam (Scott Clifton, r.) shows Wyatt (Darin Brooks) his phone on B&B.

HOWARD WISE/JPI



GH's Robert (Tristan Rogers, r.) makes his point to Mac (John J. York).

PHOTOS: CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

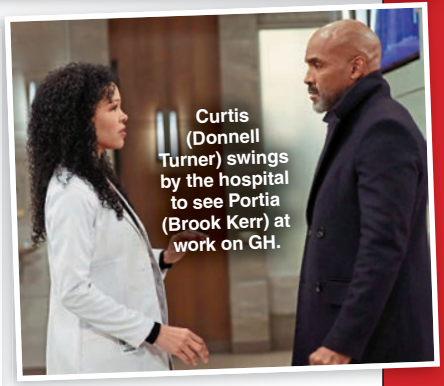
Laura (Genie Francis) reconnects with Nikolas (Marcus Coloma) on GH.

DAYS's Kristen (Stacy Haiduk) snaps a selfie with Brady (Eric Martsolf).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Is the honeymoon already over for DAYS's Gabi (Camila Banus) and Li (Remington Hoffman)?

XJ JOHNSON/JPI



Curtis (Donnell Turner) swings by the hospital to see Portia (Brook Kerr) at work on GH.

BEHIND the SCENES!

Social snaps of stars on set.

CHRISTINA BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GH's Nicholas Chavez (Spencer) and Tabyana Ali (Trina) smiled for the camera.

"No place like home," shared Y&R's former Makeup Artist Patti Denney, with Christel Khalil (Lily, l.), Michael Graziadei (Daniel) and Kate Linder (Esther). "Great afternoon visit."

INSTAGRAM/DENNEY

"I am so grateful to have such incredibly supportive friends!!" trilled Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS, second from l.), with WEDDING VEIL co-stars Autumn Reeser (ex-Taylor, THE O.C., l.), Lacey Chabert (ex-Bianca, ALL MY CHILDREN) and Paolo Bernardini. "We were filming late together on a night which happened to be the premiere of #amagicalchristmasvillage. So while we were filming #thewedding veil everyone cozied up to watch and enjoy the movie during our breaks in between takes."

INSTAGRAM/SWEENEY

"Eyes on your own paper," teased Matt Cohen (ex-Griffin, GH), who is filming a new project.

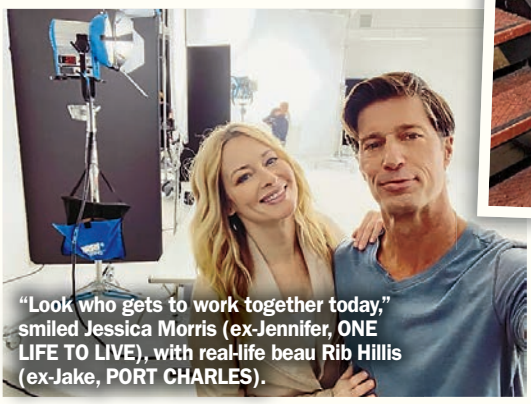
INSTAGRAM/COHEN

"Amazing time with filming @youngandrestlesscbs thanks to these two fabulous friends/ stars @traceybregman1 [Lauren, r.] and @bethmaitlanddqb [Traci]," reported Michael Damian (Danny).

INSTAGRAM/DAMIAN

Zuleyka Silver (Audra, Y&R) posed at the set.

INSTAGRAM/SILVER



"Look who gets to work together today," smiled Jessica Morris (ex-Jennifer, ONE LIFE TO LIVE), with real-life beau Rib Hillis (ex-Jake, PORT CHARLES).

INSTAGRAM/MORRIS

INSTAGRAM/MORGAN

"Meet Dr. Petra Dupre!" enthused Mishael Morgan (Amanda, Y&R). "Catch me on ChicagoMed this week!"

"Crack cameraman, Mark Warshaw and @1steve burton [Harris, c.]. Good times. #days," praised Stephen Nichols (Steve).

INSTAGRAM/NICHOLS

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of soapoperadigest.com weigh in.

Who's the better match for GH's Maxie?

Spin Cycle: GH fans want to see Maxie (Kirsten Storms) paired with Spinelli (Bradford Anderson).

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

Austin	11%
Spinelli	89%

trend temperature

	Fired Y&R Exec	GH Mom/Daughter Reveal	Bayview Bound (DAYS)
HOT	Phyllis	Heather/Esme	Ava
WARM	Sally	Nina/Willow	Doug
COLD	Nate	Nina/Nelle	Abigail

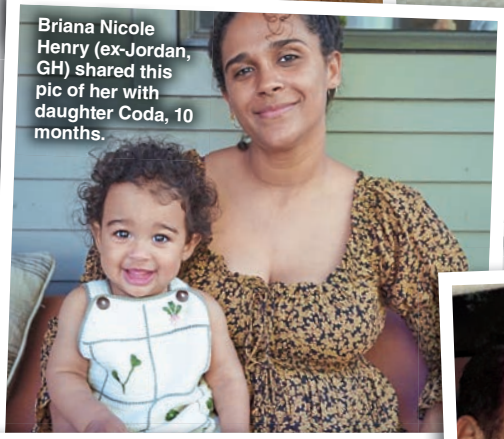
STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

"Just saying hi!" mused Katelyn MacMullen (Willow, GH).

INSTAGRAM/MACMULLEN

"Sunday swirl & sips," is how DAYS's Emily O'Brien (Gwen) captioned this shot.

INSTAGRAM/O'BRIEN



Briana Nicole Henry (ex-Jordan, GH) shared this pic of her with daughter Coda, 10 months.

INSTAGRAM/HENRY

Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH) enjoyed a "date night" with daughter Leila, 16.

INSTAGRAM/MATHISON

"Our pup pack!" enthused Lauralee Bell (Christine, Y&R) of her three furry friends.

INSTAGRAM/BELL

Record This

your handy guide to must-see episodes

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Bold And Beautiful

Stormy Weather

On **Tuesday, December 27**, Carter (l.) and Katie share a romantic date during a torrential storm.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, despite their tumultuous history, Taylor and Brooke embark on a new journey.... On **Thursday, December 29**, Liam and Wyatt grow more concerned over Bill's state of mind.

Days Of Our Lives

Midnight Hour

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

On **Monday, December 26**, Alex and Stephanie spend Christmas together, and Victor and Sonny clash over Leo.... Paulina's spirits are raised when Eli shows up with the twins on **Tuesday, December 27**.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, Eric and Brady put their plan into action, and Nancy presses Chloe (both above) about her love life.... On **Thursday, December 29**, Chloe and Stefan have a romantic New Year's Eve in Miami, and Gabi and Li's wedding gets underway.... Li and Gabi's wedding comes to a screeching halt, and EJ confesses to Nicole on **Friday, December 30**.

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

General Hospital

Expect The Unexpected

Britt's decision surprises Terry; Dante encourages Cody (l.); and Trina and Spencer are determined on **Monday, December 26**.... On **Tuesday, December 27**, Brook Lynn opens up to Maxie; Sonny brokers a deal; and Chase catches up with Sasha.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, Spencer apologizes to Ava; Cyrus offers aid to Laura; and Victor issues a warning to Nikolas.... Esme tries to work Elizabeth; Ava reveals what she's after; and Laura voices her suspicions on **Thursday, December 29**.

Young And Restless

O, Come All Ye Faithful

On **Monday, December 26**, Tucker surprises Ashley; Elena tries to repair Nate (both r.) and Devon's relationship; and Summer puts Diane on notice.... Victor wants Adam back in the fold at Newman on **Tuesday, December 27**, while Devon regrets a business decision, and Phyllis and Daniel reminisce with Danny.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, Victor lashes out at Nick, and Sally keeps a secret.... Danny reunites with Traci and Lauren on **Thursday, December 29**, and Lily makes a painful decision.

COURTESY OF LANY PRODUCTIONS

The Bay

High Stakes

On **Monday, December 26**, Adam confronts Logan; Belinda makes an entrance; Steve arrives in Bay City; and Jack makes amends.... Pete reflects on his life with Vivian (both l.), and Adam and Vivian have a face-off on **Tuesday, December 27**.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, Lex confronts Steve; Xander, Frankie and Regan run into Caleb and RJ out of town; and Pete continues his search.... Tamara makes a call to Evan, while Dre listens in; Red speaks with Adam from afar; and Belinda tries to help on **Thursday, December 29**.... On **Friday, December 30**, Pete gets an update; Vivian attempts to form an alliance; and Adam unleashes his wrath on Daniel.

TV TIME

HALLMARK MEDIA

On **Monday, December 26**, Hallmark begins to re-air its most popular Christmas movies, including CHRISTMAS IN ROME, with ALL MY CHILDREN vets Lacey Chabert (ex-Bianca) and Sam Page (ex-Trey). Later, it's WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS, starring Jennifer Finnigan (ex-Bridget, B&B).... On **Tuesday December 27**, Alison Sweeney (ex-Sami, DAYS, r.) headlines OPEN BY CHRISTMAS.... On **Wednesday, December 28**, Sweeney is back with TV legend Marlo Thomas in A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS VILLAGE.... Tanner Novlan's (Finn, B&B) CHRISTMAS REUNION re-airs on **Thursday, December 29**. Chandler Massey (Will, DAYS) stars in A TALE OF TWO CHRISTMASES and NEXT STOP, CHRISTMAS opposite Lyndsy Fonseca (ex-Colleen, Y&R). On **Friday, December 30**, Ryan Paevey (ex-Nathan, GH) stars in A FABLED HOLIDAY. Paevey is back on **Saturday, December 31**, in CHRISTMAS AT THE PLAZA, followed by Katrina Bowden (Flo, B&B) in THE MOST COLORFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

thumbs up! and down!

Best Of Show Or Worse For Wear? Digest Decides.

thumbs up!

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Smoked Out

Emma Samms's triumphant return trip to Port Charles came to an adrenalized, twist-filled climax as steeped in emotion as it was in action. After Holly appeared to do Victor's bidding (however reluctantly) by drugging Robert and absconding with the diamond necklace, she "died" a fiery death with law enforcement swarming her hideaway cabin. Not exactly the happy ending her fans (and Robert/Holly fans) had hoped for! But GH had a very fun trick up its sleeve. Felicia (disguised as a paramedic) caught up to Robert and Holly, whereupon flashbacks revealed how

GH's Robert (Tristan Rogers) and Holly (Emma Samms)

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Holly and Robert had faked the drugging/necklace theft and how Holly and Felicia had faked her demise-by-fire so that Holly could slip out of the country and continue her quest to rescue Ethan and take down Victor. (Bonus points for the clever part of the plan that entailed Holly paying Selina off with a gem to drug Victor.) Robert and Holly's tender, private good-bye perfectly channeled the magical chemistry between Samms and Tristan Rogers (Robert) that originally catapulted them to supercoupledom back in the 1980s. This was Holly's most satisfying comeback arc yet — and we certainly hope it won't be the last.

thumbs down!

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Out In The Cold

It's been a year since Taylor came back to Los Angeles, yet there's been little development to endear her to the audience again. It started off promising: Krista Allen brings a youthful energy to her new role, and Taylor initially seemed focused on work and family and reconnecting with loved ones. It was

Applause, Applause

We got a kick out of hearing on DAYS that one of Salem's councilmen is named Cass Winthrop (Stephen Schnetzer's former ANOTHER WORLD role)! ... Clever use of history on GH when it was revealed that Anna was hiding out at Tiffany's in Ireland! ... Was there anything cuter than watching Y&R billionaire Tucker on the floor playing with his grandson?

Picky Picky

The timeline of Jada's abortion on DAYS is perplexing: Li established it was the day after Thanksgiving by commenting on the lack of pie at Rafe's the day before, yet Jada, whose holiday night conversation with Nicole was still hanging in the air, was fully made up and dressed when everyone else was having breakfast and informed Eric that she had terminated the pregnancy. When did she find the time? ... Y&R's Chance wants a divorce from Abby, but why did he move out of *his* family home? ... GH's Victor was scripted as shocked to find out that Britt has Huntington's — but it was established on-air that he knew of Britt's diagnosis in 2021, when he faked the existence of a medical conference devoted to inherited diseases in order to kidnap Liesl.

DAYS's Eric (Greg Vaughan) and Jada (Elia Cantu)

X.J. JOHNSON/JPI

refreshing — exciting, even — to see a Taylor for whom Ridge was not the be-all, end-all. Suddenly, however, she was swept up in her kids' desire to see their parents reunited and everything else fell by the wayside. She became near-fixated on Ridge, despite the fact that he was clearly in love with Brooke. And when Taylor learned that their rekindled union was based on a lie, she opted to stay mum to become Mrs. Forrester again, hardly a wise or mature move for the "world-renowned" shrink. Allen and Thorsten Kaye (Ridge) have chemistry to spare, and the past year has proven that there's more mileage in this decades-old triangle, but we need to care equally about all three parts. Here's hoping Taylor's next chapter yields some promising character development; she's too important to the canvas to be stuck playing third wheel.

thumbs up!/ thumbs down!

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Social Faux Pas

The issue of abortion is a divisive and hot-button one in our society, and it is rarely delved into on daytime. When female characters *have* elected to end their pregnancies, it has usually been as part of a carefully paced, thoughtful examination of the topic. But on DAYS, Jada's pregnancy and subsequent abortion came and went with lightning speed and too-little depth. There was some good, albeit brief, soapy drama here (Jada learned she was with child shortly after witnessing Eric and Nicole kissing, and in strong scenes, Eric and Jada decided to raise their baby together as single, yet committed, parents). But after Nicole talked to Jada about the challenges of single motherhood and pointed out that the baby would tie Jada to Eric for the rest of her life, Jada raced off and terminated her pregnancy — without consulting Eric, who had made it clear that he wanted the child. Suggesting that a woman's choice to have an abortion is rash and unconsidered is problematic, as is how, upon learning of the discussion that had taken place between Nicole and Jada, Eric blamed Nic (!) for Jada's decision, driving a wedge between them — which seems to be the only reason the abortion was scripted in the first place. It was shocking, and not in a good way, to see such a serious topic treated so cavalierly. □

Second Opinion

Here's what's on our minds!

For me, the best drama unfolding on Y&R can be found in the increasingly contentious relationships between three sets of siblings, all brother and sister pairs. Jack and Ashley have long shared a love/hate history of his power plays and her bold retributions, and now, he's in a dither over her ramped-up vendetta against Diane. Jack has drawn a line in the sand that Ashley has no trouble crossing, which once again puts Abbott family unity at risk (plus watching powerhouses Peter Bergman and Eileen Davidson go at it is positively riveting). As the COO to Victoria's CEO at Newman, Nick's job is to support her decisions, but he's taken personal umbrage with her moves to swap out Sally (his girlfriend) for Nate (he of little family loyalty) as head of the media division. Nick's protestations have fallen on deaf ears, with Victoria pulling rank and basically demanding obedience, a real hide-chafer for her usually easygoing brother. Could Nick walk out on the family biz again? And I have never seen closer-than-close sibs Devon and Lily at such loggerheads as they are over the Chancellor-Winters IPO (she's for it, he's not). To watch these two actually clashing under the shadow of their late father Neil's legacy is both poignant and engrossing. I applaud the Y&R writers for finding such gold to mine in its sibling-centered storytelling. — Devin Owens

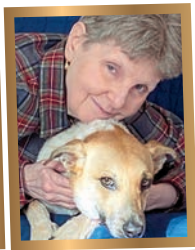
editor's note

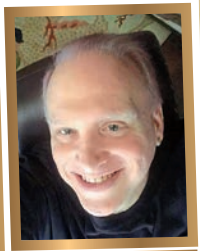
JIM WARREN

Dear Readers, **Happy New Year** from all of us to all of you! Wishing you a fantastic 2023!

Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane, VP, Editorial Director





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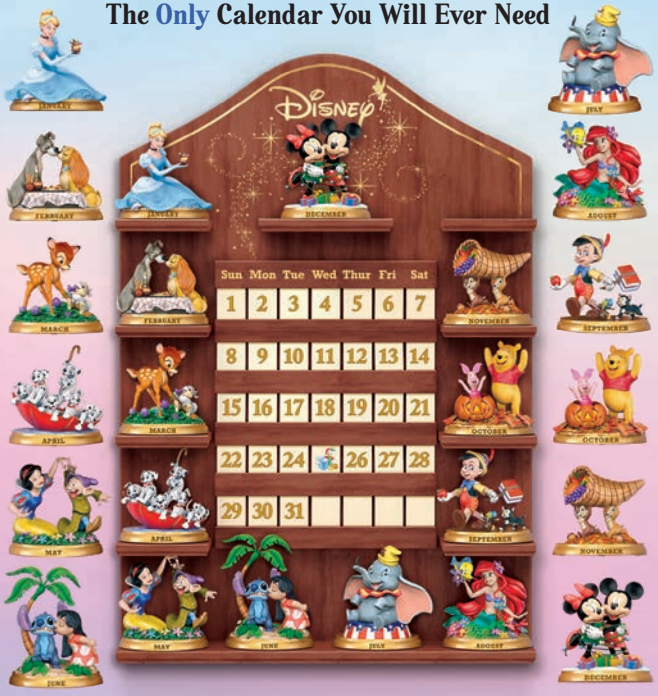

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By Carolyn Hinsey

It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's most outspoken columnist!

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

OMG, is it another new year already? Never mind losing weight, saving money, blah blah — let's make some resolutions for our soaps.

Play Families Together

Pretty much every scene can be improved by adding a family member. DAYS's Kristen blackmailed Brady into letting her and Rachel move into John and Marlena's house, and Marlena eye-rolled all the way to Christmas.

John *(surveying Rachel's list for Santa)*: "A dream house for Granny Mar Mar doll?"

Marlena: "It's okay if you just call me Grandma."

Rachel: "Mommy said you like that name."

Marlena: "Mommy's confused."

Kristen told Rachel she could ask Santa for Mommy and Daddy to get married, which is reason No. 900 why Kristen should not be allowed anywhere near children. Marlena was having none of it and set the kid straight.

John: "I think what Granny Mar Mar, I mean Grandma, is trying to say is...."

Ha! Salem's ace psychiatrist also tried to explain to the psycho that it's not right to make unreasonable promises to her daughter.

Kristen: "I know that look. You're about to bore me with one of your tedious lectures."

Marlena's lectures are anything but boring. Add her to every scene with anyone who is a Brady or is Brady-adjacent this year.

Pretty much every scene can be improved by adding a family member.

Beggars Can't Be Heroines

I'm fine with characters like DAYS's Kristen, Y&R's Diane, GH's Esme and B&B's Sheila doing desperate things to catch a man, but a viable leading lady cannot be desperately sniffing after a man in 2023. In related news, I am very happy to report that perpetual man-sniffer Brooke Logan finally grew a spine and set Ridge straight on B&B after he annulled their marriage without telling her why and walked down the aisle with Taylor.

Brooke: "Why couldn't you talk to me? This back and forth has to stop."

Ridge: "You're right."

Brooke: "My self-respect has really taken a beating over the years. When I look in the mirror I like the woman I see. I won't take anything less than I deserve. Now it's your turn to figure it out."

Finally!

Stop Making Marriage A Plot Point

B&B's Taylor wanted that ring so badly she was willing to begin her marriage to Ridge with a lie — as if walking down the aisle would mean "forever" when Ridge annulled his marriage to Brooke in five minutes. It was a plot point, not a promise.

Brooke: "I expected better from you."

Ex Marks The Spot: Phyllis (Michelle Stafford) and Jack (Peter Bergman) are best when they're at odds.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Not me. Taylor has been a needy mess since her return.

Play Exes Together

Divorced couples have history and secrets and know how to push each other's buttons. GH's Anna and Robert are the gold standard, but did you catch Phyllis and Jack's epic battle on Y&R over Phyllis telling the menacing Jeremy Stark how to find Diane?

Phyllis: "This is not my fault."

Jack: "And it wasn't your fault when you tortured Christine all those years ago and made Sharon's life a living hell."

Phyllis: "You're bringing back my past?"

Jack: "A word of warning: Marchetti is a subsidiary of Jabot. I *am* Jabot."

Threatening her job was a nice touch. Other exes I'd like to see screaming at each other include B&B's Bill/Katie (let him have it!), GH's Spencer/Esme (let her have it!), and is DAYS's Johnny ever going to smack down Ava for killing his grandmother?

Make New Couples With Existing Characters

Don't bring on newbies, dance with the ones you've got! GH's Robert and Diane could do some serious tangoing.

Diane: "I did not take you for a lover of poetry."

Robert: "I've still got some surprises left."

GH had a good thing going with Austin and Britt but they paired Austin with Maxie, and Britt with a newbie named Cody and the wheels fell off. Britt's health spiral has been surprisingly entertaining, telling Ava, "I haven't had relationship sex since 2014 with your husband," but she should have had "relationship sex" with Austin.

DAYS's Eric and Jada were meh, but Nicole and EJ are interesting because we're familiar with them. You can scrap Y&R's Noah/Allie/Audra/Tucker or whatever that's supposed to be because we don't know any of them. However, Nick and Sally could shake things up but *good*.

Nick *(spying Sally's unmade bed and Adam's exit)*: "I guess this is a bad time."

And, as preposterous as it was that B&B's Quinn crawled out of Carter's bed and disappeared, Katie and Carter could be a believable couple if they tell it right.

Katie: "We've gotten close."

Donna: "How close?"

Katie: "Not as close as you're thinking."

That's a good start.

Shake Up The Locations

Enough with the limbo hotels, office desks and park benches. I know money is tight, but a little creativity goes a long way. DAYS has worked wonders with simple tables outside the Sweet Bits bakery and Y&R hosts a daily coffee klatch in front of Sharon's counter at Crimson Lights. Most creative was GH making a prison cell out of a tile wall and a red telephone so Victor Cassadine could visit Spencer in prison and run into the kid's other uncle, Cyrus Renault.

Victor: "I'm Spencer's *actual* family."

Cyrus: "I know who you are."

Twisted Works

I'm sorry, but delivering Sheila's severed toe to Finn as what was left of her remains was genius.

Steffy: "What are you doing with Sheila's toe?"

Finn: "Hopefully getting some answers. It's a little convenient, Sheila being mauled by a bear."

Cut to Sheila painting her toenails reciting, "This little piggy went to market," until she got to her missing toe.

Sheila: "This little piggy had to take one for the team."

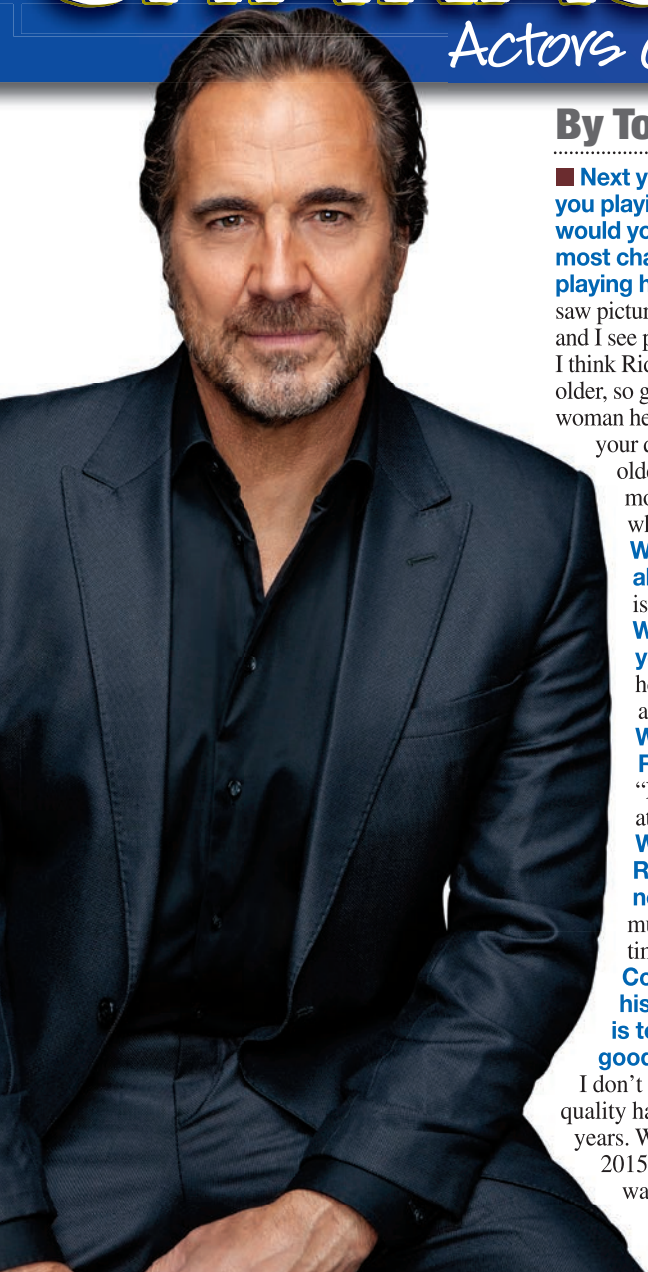
Warped, depraved, sadistic — and fantastic.

Let's have more of that in 2023!

■ Hey. It's only my opinion. □

CHARACTER

Actors Offer Insight



By Tom Stacy

Next year will mark 10 years of you playing Ridge on B&B. How would you say your character has most changed since you began playing him? "Are you sure it's 10? I saw pictures of us when I first started and I see pictures of myself now and I think Ridge looks like he's 20 years older, so good luck to whichever woman he chooses. But to answer your question, I do think as he gets older, family means so much more to him than maybe it did when he was younger."

What do you like most about your character? "He is dressed in Armani all day."

What don't you like about your character? "Whenever he is not dressed in Armani all day."

What do you consider Ridge's greatest strength? "He can love multiple women at the same time."

What do you consider Ridge's greatest weakness? "That he can love multiple women at the same time."

Considering his marital history, do you think Ridge is too impulsive for his own good? "It may seem that way but I don't think so. I actually think that quality has served him well over the years. When he married Caroline [in 2015] it seemed impulsive, and it was, but when it was good, it

GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

STUDY: Into Their Alter Egos

Thorsten Kaye (Ridge, B&B)

CBS • CBS • CBS

was good. If you have a quick start, sometimes you finish first and sometimes you get disqualified. That's just the way the game goes. But I don't see that changing anytime soon."

What family member is your character closest to? "Oh, his dad, hands down. This, of course, may reflect how I feel about John McCook [Eric] because we also have a bond in real life, but these guys on screen are equals and they have the utmost respect for one another. What Ridge feels for Eric is exactly how I feel about John. When Ridge grows up, he can only hope to be as good a man as his father."

SEAN SMITH/JPI

Father Knows Best: Kaye cherishes Ridge's relationship with Eric (John McCook).

What was your most emotional storyline? "Well, it's always better not to fall for your stepmother. That was such a betrayal on Ridge's part but their father/son love was strong enough that they could work their way past it, and look around now, Quinn is nowhere to be seen so maybe in a way, Ridge did him a favor. And if it wasn't Ridge, it would have been Carter, which it ended up being, so there you have it."

Who would you say is your character's best friend? "Carter, for sure. I really like Lawrence [Saint-Victor, Carter]. He takes his stuff very seriously. He also writes for the show so he has a lot invested in this, and it shows. It shows in the way he approaches his work. He is always committed. He's always there and best of all, I really like him as a person. He's just a good guy."

Who is your character's greatest rival? "Don Diamont [Bill] told me to say Bill."

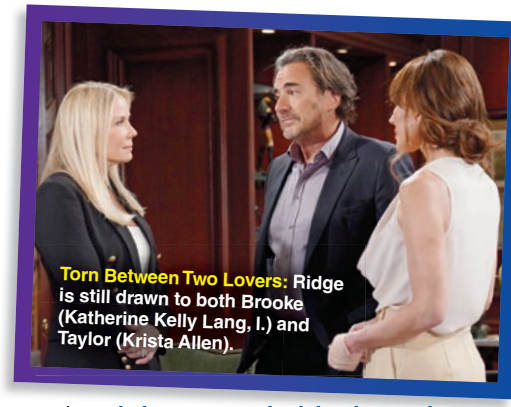
Is he one of your favorite on-screen fighting partners, as well? "Oh, yeah. Those are always fun to shoot."

Bro Code: Carter (Lawrence Saint-Victor) is Ridge's best pal.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

Who is the love of your character's life and who is the one that got away? "Brooke and Taylor could be each of those. It's funny you should ask that now with what's going on in the story. I think that question will someday be the last chapter of this book."

Who is the person your character turns to for advice? "Eric, 100 percent. He is the most stable character on the show. He's very wise and that silver hair helps him, for sure. Eric is selfless. I can't tell you how happy I am when I get scenes to play with John. On top of that, I can't tell you how happy I am that his work was recognized [when McCook won his first Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor earlier this year]. He's not just a best actor. It's so much more than that. It's not just who's the best athlete on the team. It's about which athlete makes the team better, and that's what John does. He doesn't steal scenes. He's the guy who centers the scene and makes everyone else better, and that's why he got the Emmy."



Torn Between Two Lovers: Ridge is still drawn to both Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang, l.) and Taylor (Krista Allen).

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

How do you imagine Ridge spends his downtime? "I think he likes a good bourbon."

What was your favorite drunk scene to play? "I don't remember this guy being drunk ever. I don't know what you are talking about."

Top Of The Line: Ridge's storyline with Caroline (Linsey Godfrey) is a favorite of Kaye's.

What character would you like to see Ridge have a story with? "I think I've worked with pretty much everybody in the cast but if R.J. came back, the father/son dynamic is always fun to explore, especially when the kid has something on the line. With everything going on with Brooke and Ridge right now, it would be interesting to see the kid's take on things."

If your character could go back in time and change one decision he made, what would it be? "I think I'd rather change some of Thorsten's decisions [*laughs*]. But when it comes to Ridge, he has been involved with many women during the time I have played him. As you said, it's not even been 10 years and he's been involved with Brooke, Taylor, Katie, Quinn, Shauna and Caroline. Did I miss anyone? For a guy who's all about family, he does get around."

Do you have a favorite Ridge storyline? "I've got to tell you, the Caroline story is still one of my favorites. I wish Ridge's relationship with Douglas went a little deeper, and it still may. Who knows? That may come up again. He wanted to raise this kid as his own so there's a lot that could be mined there."

You do have great chemistry with Henry Joseph Samiri (Douglas). "He's a very good actor. I can't wait to see where he'll be in 20 years."

What are the most memorable highs and lows you've played as Ridge? "Wow, there have actually been many of both of those times. I think for Ridge, one of the happiest was seeing Steffy come back from the brink, between the pills and the shooting.... That has got to be one of the happiest

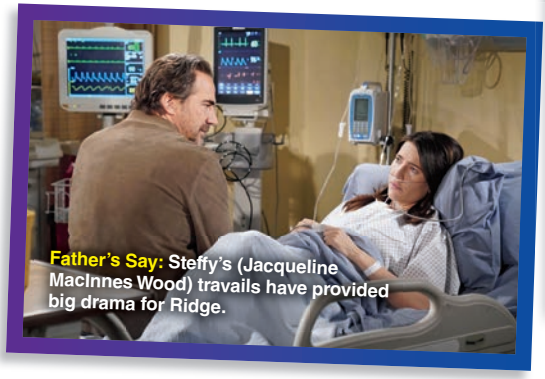
moments of any parent's life, to see their kid come out of that darkness, but also it was the worst time for him because he wasn't there to protect her, and those two things go hand in hand."

What question do you get asked most often from fans about your character? " 'Why?' It doesn't matter the circumstances but it's, 'Why did you do this?' 'Why wouldn't you do that?' It always comes down to 'Why?' "

What storyline are you most proud of? "Besides the Eric/Ridge separation, I think one of the best stories B&B has told, which Ridge wasn't a big part of but he was still there for, was with Karla Mosley [ex-Maya] and the story she had with Rick [when Maya was revealed as transgender in 2015]. I loved that. Karla was so good in that. It got a lot of attention and at the heart of it, it really was a great love story."

What is something Ridge hasn't done that you would like to see your character do? "Quit Forrester Creations and do something totally on his own and totally out of character."

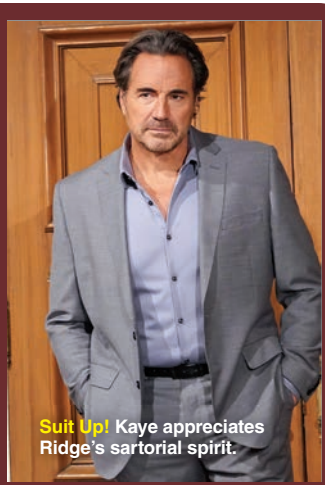
What has been the best thing about playing your character? "Any job can become a job after a while. I don't care how you do it. The best thing about this show is the people we get to surround ourselves with every single day. Brad [Bell, executive producer/head writer] runs a great ship. There are a terrific bunch of people who work here and I think that whenever my day comes, I'm going to walk away a better person for being here." □



Father's Say: Steffy's (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) travails have provided big drama for Ridge.

CBS • CBS • CBS

ME vs. HIM



Suit Up! Kaye appreciates Ridge's sartorial spirit.

■ **Who dresses better — you or your character?** "That's not even a fair question. Have you seen me anywhere when I'm dressed as myself? It's not pretty but it is comfortable."

Who has a better house? "You'd think it would be the Forrester mansion but I've actually got four walls so mine is definitely the better house."

Do you have a favorite set? "What used to be Ridge's loft. It was nice that for a little while, Ridge had a place to call his own."

What do you always tell the fans? " 'Keep watching.' "

Describe Ridge in three words? "Too. Damn. Heavy. They say the camera adds 10 pounds but I think in my case, it's 30."

THIS WEEK IN SOAP OPERA HISTORY

Digest **looks back on standout moments from the past.**

KNOTS LANDING premiered on CBS on December 27, 1979, featuring Ted Shackelford as Gary and Joan Van Ark as Valene.

COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

ALL MY CHILDREN's Erica (Susan Lucci) became Mrs. Dimitri Marick (Michael Nader) for the second time on December 31, 1994.

FRANK MICELOTTA/ABC

On December 28, 1998, AS THE WORLD TURNS's Camille (Lauren Martin) called off her engagement to Ben (Peter Parros).

COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

ONE LIFE TO LIVE's Todd (Roger Howarth), Blair (Kassie DePaiva, l.) and Starr (Kristen Alderson) rang in the new year on December 31, 2001.

STEVE FENN/ABC

Jax (Ingo Rademacher) threw a New Year's Eve bash to celebrate the opening of the Metro Court on GH on December 31, 2004.

ADAM LARKEY/ABC

To stop him from kidnapping her, Carly (Maura West) took control of Craig's (Jon Lindstrom) vehicle and they skidded off the road on December 28, 2009 on ATWT.

GEORGE DE SOTA/JPI

On December 29, 2016, Y&R's Mariah (Camryn Grimes, r.) busted Hilary (Mishael Morgan) for deliberately causing her to trip on national television.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

In 2017 on December 29, Tyler Christopher debuted as DAYS's Stefan O. DiMera.

JOHN PASCHAL/JPI

Q roundup

What was your most

RYAN MILLER/SHUTTERSTOCK

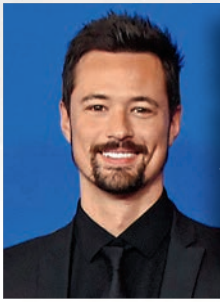
Charles Shaughnessy (Victor, GH)

"In 2003, I was in New York with my wife and my two kids and we went to see a show and then had dinner near Times Square at this lovely restaurant where, if you paid a certain price, you got to score a special place in Times Square underneath the ball. So we had dinner and then these policemen arrived to escort the diners through the crowds and right under the ball into this pen that had been cordoned off for us. We got to watch the ball drop and my kids just lit up and we went back to our hotel just glowing."

Cameron Mathison (Drew, GH)

IMAGE PRESS AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK

"In college, my friends came up to visit me in Montreal and we went to a really cool party and had a blast. I was the first guy back to the apartment and I didn't realize that someone else in the building locked the door behind me, so all six of my friends got locked out in the freezing cold. This was before cell phones, so they were banging on the fire escape and the door, but I was dead asleep. Most of my friends ended up sleeping in an ATM vestibule! It was a disaster. I woke up in the morning and I was like, 'Wow, it's so quiet in here!' "



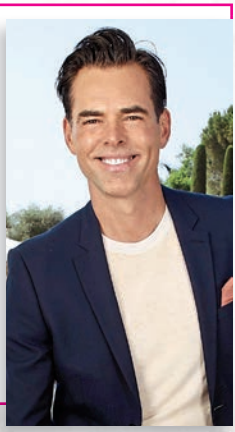
MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Matthew Atkinson (Thomas, B&B)

"This last year, I spent it up on a mountain with friends. They have a cabin in a small town in Utah and we went skiing and watched fireworks, sipping hot cocoa. I had my girlfriend by my side and got to kiss her at midnight. It was awesome."

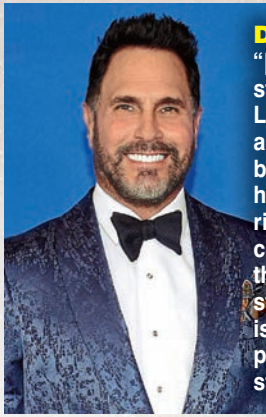
Jason Thompson (Billy, Y&R)

"It was the New Year's Eve when my wife, Paloma, and I spent it driving with my Great Dane in the middle of winter. We had driven from California to Canada and spent about a week there and then on New Year's Eve morning, we decided to start driving back. The weather was bad, so we made our way to Banff [Alberta, Canada] and even though we were in a snowstorm, the scenery was absolutely stunning because it was just the three of us and it was very quiet."



D. GUIGNEBOURG/JPI

memorable New Year's Eve?

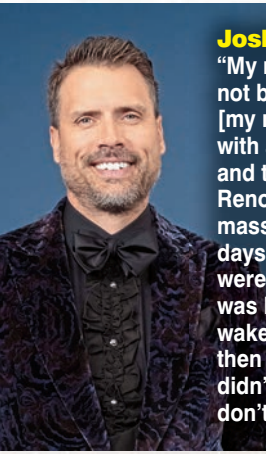


Don Diamont (Bill, B&B)
"[Son] Alexander was in the Pinstripe Bowl in 2015, and [sons] Luca, Anton and Davis were there, and we were in Times Square for the ball drop. Neither [wife] Cindy nor I had ever done that in our lives and right before the ball dropped, some cops recognized me and brought us through the barriers — and we were standing right there! My birthday is New Year's Eve and it's usually pretty mellow, so that one really stands out."

AFF/OA/STEVEN BERGMAN

Jessica Serfaty (Sloan, DAYS)
"I was on the beach in Mauritius. It's an island off the coast of Africa right before the Maldives. I was laying on the Indian Ocean on my back floating. There was this smell of curry in a beautiful way. It was just delicious. I was watching the fireworks up in the sky."

JOEL C. RYAN/SHUTTERSTOCK



Joshua Morrow (Nick, Y&R)
"My most memorable New Year's Eve is not because it was exciting. It was when [my now-wife] Tobe and I went to Tahoe with a bunch of friends, snowboarding, and then we were supposed to fly out of Reno to go back home but there was a massive storm and we couldn't fly out for days. We couldn't even rent a car, so we were stuck in some Reno casino and it was like *Groundhog Day*. Every day we'd wake up, eat some casino breakfast and then go back to our room because we didn't want to play any more blackjack. I don't ever want to do that again."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

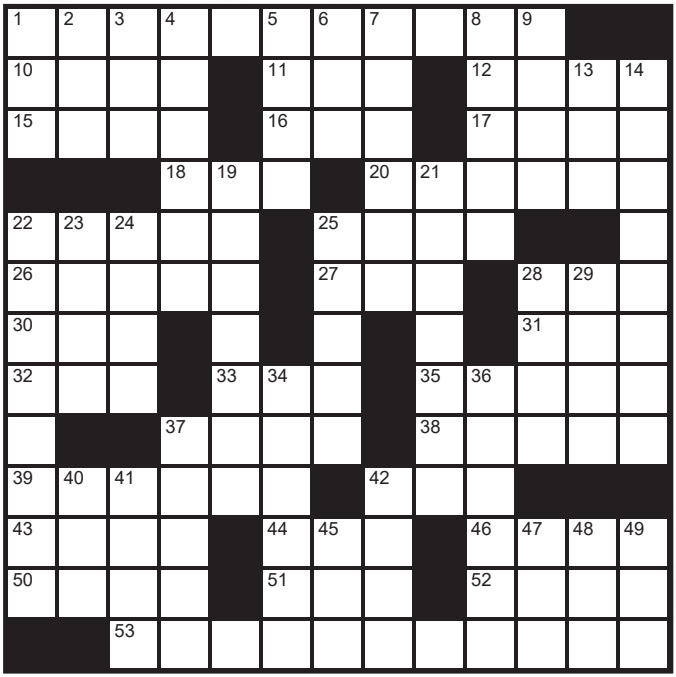
JORDAN STRAUSS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Emily O'Brien (Gwen, DAYS)
"I was 18. It was my first time going to New York City and my friend and I went to Times Square to see the ball drop. We somehow wriggled our way to the front and became friendly with this police officer. We made up this stupid fib about how we were friends with Hilary Duff, who was performing that night, and said he had to let us in because we had to give her her makeup bag. By some miracle, the next thing we knew, we were being escorted down the middle of Times Square right to the front of the stage by four police officers."

crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

HAPPY ... NOT SO FAST



ACROSS

1. NBC SOAP THAT LAST AIRED IN 1999 (two words)
10. Tad's mother (ALL MY CHILDREN)
11. Santa sounds
12. Makes like a rabbit
15. Y&R's Mergeron
16. "Dig in!"
17. GH's Rademacher (ex-Jax)
18. General on a menu
20. What season nine of 36 Down was (two words)
22. Reality TV winner's soap part, often
25. Sporty car roof
26. Y&R role for Zuleyka Silver
27. Common Market initials
28. Camera type, briefly
30. Some Windows systems
31. ___ Master's Voice
32. GH's Lucy
33. Aviation group; abbr.
35. *Swan Lake* swan
37. Truman's first lady
38. Approached aggressively (two words)
39. Wife of TV's Frasier
42. "Handy" form of communication, briefly
43. Hayley who played GH's Kiki
44. GH extra, perhaps; abbr.
46. DAYS's Chloe
50. "Drat!"
51. Long, long time
52. DAYS role for Robert Scott Wilson
53. December 31 (three words)

DOWN

1. This mag, for short
2. AP competitor
3. A Bobbsey twin
4. Zach ___, Thorsten Kaye's AMC role
5. Kyle's social influencer friend (Y&R)
6. ___ constrictor
7. The Newman grounds, e.g. (Y&R)
8. Wake-up call?
9. Sharpen
13. Tour organizer, for short
14. *IT LAST AIRED ON NBC IN 1976*
19. Cable channel that aired ABC soaps and 1 DAY WITH...
21. *WITH THE, IT LAST AIRED ON NBC IN 1982*
22. *WHAT ALL OF THE THEME SHOWS WERE BY 53 ACROSS*
23. Car, for short
24. It's what for sale; abbr.
25. *IT LAST AIRED IN 1982 ON NBC*
28. Surname for Li or Wendy (DAYS)
29. Late Quartermaine matriarch (GH)
34. Abby's mom (Y&R)
36. KNOTS LANDING parent show
37. Watch a whole week's worth of soap episodes in

Answers can be found in the next issue.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

					9		1	
			1		6	7	3	
5	1	6					8	
7		2	8			9	4	
	5	9			7	8		6
	7					5	9	4
	8	4	9		1			
	9		7					

one day, say
40. Gershwin brother
41. Actor Mark ___-Baker
42. B&B's Maria Horsford (ex-Vivienne)
45. *The Raven* author
47. Brady pub pint (DAYS)
48. Las Vegas state; abbr.
49. Computer file suffix

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

E	P	I	P	H	A	N	Y	■	■	E	L	F
G	E	N	I	E	■	O	A	F	■	V	E	R
G	R	A	C	E	■	U	M	A	■	A	V	A
O	■	■	A	P	B	S	■	R	U	N	I	N
S	N	L	■	■	R	E	L	■	■	S	S	N
■	H	O	L	L	Y	■	A	L	I	■	■	I
G	L	O	R	I	A	■	D	E	V	A	N	E
A	■	■	G	U	N	■	Y	A	Y	M	E	■
R	E	F	■	■	T	O	D	■	■	O	O	B
L	L	A	M	A	■	K	I	N	G	■	■	E
A	R	I	■	M	I	A	■	A	R	I	A	L
N	I	T	■	C	A	P	■	S	O	R	E	L
D	O	H	■	■	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S

BEHIND the SCENES!

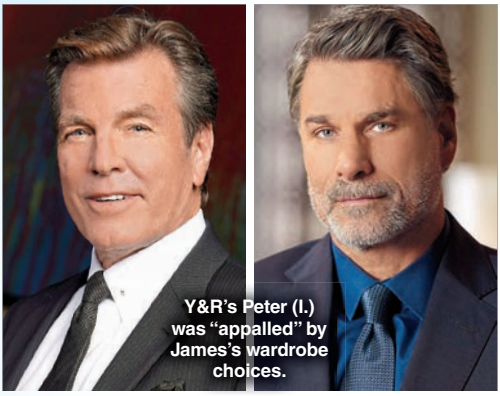
Scene & Heard

DEEP FREEZE

His GH alter ego, Dex, didn't enjoy being tortured in a deep freezer, but the plight was a blast for **Evan Hofer** to film. "It was really wonderful, actually!" Hofer says. "I feel I'm at my best as an actor when I get to use my physicality and do this kind of stuff, and I've always wanted to do action movies and this felt like that. I got to get out of my head and into my body and focus on that instead of my brain. It was just so much fun connecting with **Maurice** [**Benard**, Sonny] and **Miguel** [**Cohen**, ex-Carver], who was the one torturing me. I also enjoyed sending pictures of my all my makeup bruises to my friends! We had a really wonderful stunt coordinator who took such great care of me. When I hopped down at the end of the first day, she was like, 'I'm putting this cream on your wrist that you were hung up by.' I was like, 'Do I really need that? I'm feeling pretty okay!' She was like, 'Yeah, but we've got to get you back up there tomorrow and make sure you're all right then, too.' And she was totally right. She set us up so beautifully that we didn't have to worry about anything. Miguel was so easy to work with and a wonderful actor and he really sold it beautifully!"

GH's Evan relished his cold feat.

ADAM HENDERSHOTT



Y&R's Peter (l.) was "appalled" by James's wardrobe choices.

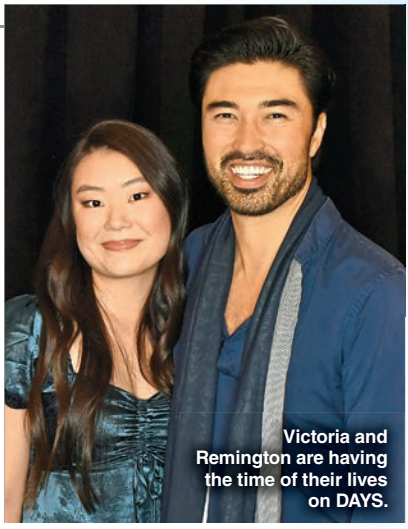
PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

HYDE & SEEK

Peter Bergman (Jack, Y&R) has been enjoying working with **James Hyde** (ex-Sam, PASSIONS), who plays the smarmy Jeremy. "I was well aware of who James is, but of all the years of running in the same daytime circles, I've never met him until he came here," explains the actor. "What a really lovely man. He's already a very welcome addition on this set. He's got a great spirit and a great sense of humor. And he's also very much into sports." Which turned out to be a little bit of an issue. "He actually had the nerve, make that the unalloyed nerve, to show up at work in an Ohio State [University] sweatshirt and work with me, whose son went to Michigan," Bergman quips. "As far I was concerned, it was height of blatant effrontery. Of all these years that Peter Bergman has worked on Y&R and in daytime, there's never been such a show of disrespect [*chuckles*]. So, yes, I gave him a bad time and I will continue to give him a very bad time."

HAPPY PLACE

Remington Hoffman (Li) and **Victoria Grace** (Wendy) couldn't be more thrilled to be part of the Salem scene. "It has been absolutely amazing, like a dream come true," raves Grace. "Everyone in the cast and crew and production are the nicest, warmest people; they really welcomed me with open arms and that's not something you can say often in this industry. There are a lot of cliquish people who don't welcome the newcomers; they don't want anything to do with them and that is *not* the vibe that I get here at DAYS, so I was really grateful, especially since **Tanner Stine** [Joey] and I, we had our first day on set together. I FaceTimed him the night before and he was telling me, 'Oh, yeah. I'm so grateful that someone else is coming on the same exact day and is brand-new because it can be intimidating, going onto a show that has such a huge legacy.' " Adds Hoffman, "I love being on a soap opera so much. I was telling my buddy who's another actor, 'I wish every actor had the opportunity to be on a soap opera.' Everyone's really kind and really welcoming and the acting is super-fun. It's wild. One rehearsal, one take, move on and we get to work every day. Honestly, just getting to work as an actor is such a blessing. I'm super-happy to be here."



Victoria and Remington are having the time of their lives on DAYS.

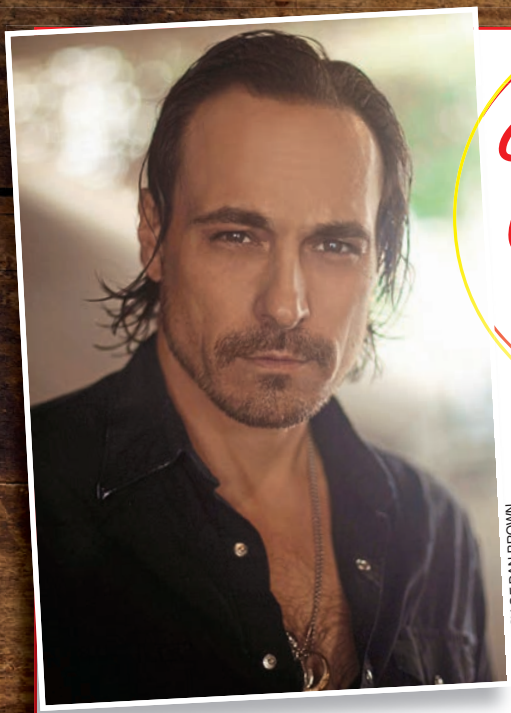
MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

HIT AND MRS.

B&B's **Ashley Tesoro** (ex-Kimberly) has a lot to look forward to in the new year. "I'm the newly crowned Mrs. Nevada Universe 2023," she reports. "This is my third consecutive pageant title, starting back in 2020 when I was crowned Mrs. Nevada-America. In July, I'll be competing for the coveted title of Mrs. Universe at the iconic Westgate Las Vegas hotel, where the king of rock and roll himself, **Elvis**, performed nightly. I love how I began my entertainment career at the age of 6 in my first beauty pageant and now all these years later, after a successful television and modeling career, I've circled back to where I began. I love the stage and feel at home there. What I love the most, though, is all the charity work I'm doing. I believe if we've been given a platform in life, it should be used for good, and I'm doing just that. I'm so thankful to my family, friends and loyal fans who've uplifted and supported me through this incredible journey. I'm blessed."

B&B's Ashley is hitting the runway again.

COURTESY OF ASHLEY TESORO



COURTESY OF DAN BROWN

Spotlight On... Dan Buran

(Linc Brown, GH)

By Mara Levinsky

Soap Opera Digest: Linc is not your first TV villain; you played baddies on shows like NASHVILLE, TRUE BLOOD and DEXTER. Do people in your life find it surprising that you're now on a soap opera?

Dan Buran: In a way they do. I mean, it sort of happened as a bit of a surprise, but I would say that my family is not surprised at all because my sister and I grew up massive YOUNG AND RESTLESS fans and I used to dream about being Victor Newman or some dark character on a soap opera. So, my family, no, but my friends are a little surprised because I've mainly done movies and prime-time TV.

Digest: You've been on GH on and off for almost two years now, which is pretty remarkable.

Buran: Yeah, it's crazy! I auditioned maybe two days after my son was born, which was in November of 2019, and I started, I think, at the beginning of 2020. I certainly didn't think it would last this long, but it's been a treat, a gift. I don't know how much longer it will last, but it's always a nice surprise when I get the email saying, "Hey, we'd like you for a couple more days." I've never been on a soap opera set before, and you just kind of have to throw yourself into it. There is something magical about being on that soundstage and the cast is wonderful — they're ready to go and supportive and it's always fun to be a part of it.

Digest: Actors often point out that bad guys don't see themselves as villains. So, how do you think Linc justifies some of his less-than-savory behavior?

Buran: I've thought about that quite a bit because I have a hard time with it myself; he says and does things that I would never do myself. But if you just get down to the psychology of the character, I'd say, first of all, he's completely out of touch with reality. Linc lives in his own world. He came up in Hollywood and the recording industry where the casting couch still existed and he never left that world! He doesn't really understand that he's in a new world, and he's obviously self-centered,

opportunistic, a womanizer and narcissistic. I would imagine it's gonna smack him in the face at some point! He's going to wake up and realize you can't get away with this stuff anymore.

Digest: Tell me about your experience working with Amanda Setton (Brook Lynn).

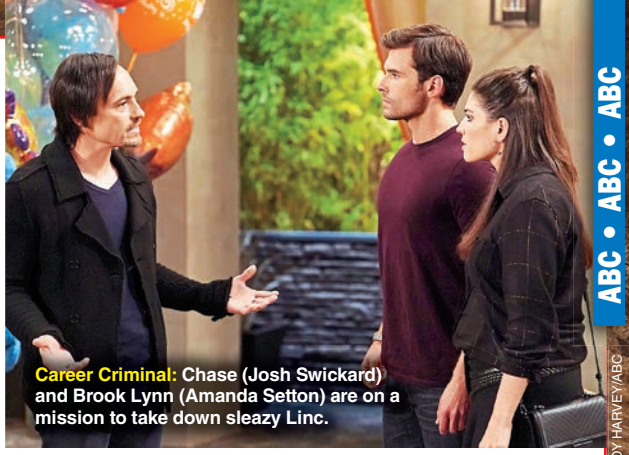
Buran: She's extremely professional, very intense, takes it very seriously, but is also very kind and sweet and supportive. She is one of the best actresses I've ever worked with. It took a little while for us to kind of get to know each other, but now that we've been working together for so long, we have a friendship in between scenes. She's a wonderful human being, and as an actress, she keeps me on my toes and we have each other's backs.

Digest: And what about Josh Swickard (Chase)?

Buran: I can't help it — I fall in love with Josh every time I look into his eyes! Josh is the same way Amanda is — extremely professional and supportive. He's very sweet and you maybe wouldn't expect that because he is sort of the hero type, but he's a very sweet guy. You might think somebody as handsome as he is would be pretentious, but he is not at all. I think he almost has a hard time playing that guy, being the guy that is the handsome face of the show, because he might not see himself as beautiful or as handsome as he is. Which makes him a really cool dude!

Digest: More recently, you've been working alongside Jacqueline Grace Lopez (Blaze).

Buran: She's just a firecracker! She's just so excited to be there and she's always cracking jokes and laughing and dancing and singing. I always joke that she's plugged into some electrical outlet somewhere that we can't see. She's awesome! I feel very grateful to work with her, too, because she's very down-to-earth, as well.



Career Criminal: Chase (Josh Swickard) and Brook Lynn (Amanda Setton) are on a mission to take down sleazy Linc.

TROY HARVEY/ABC

Digest: She told me how thoughtful and respectful you are whenever Linc has to behave inappropriately with her.

Buran: You know, it's part of the job. I always seem to play a bad guy who's got a shotgun or riding a motorcycle or smoking cigarettes or killing people or whatever it is. When I'm playing a sleazeball, as they call me, where I do have to inappropriately touch women, I approach it with caution and care and respect as an actor. It's not easy [to exhibit that behavior]! It's difficult for me because I was raised by women and raised to treat women with supreme respect. Hopefully, it comes across as real or authentic and not me being somewhat hesitant to, you know, grab her by the arm or touch her leg.

Digest: Well, I think the fact that Linc is still around is proof of how successfully you embody his sleaziness!

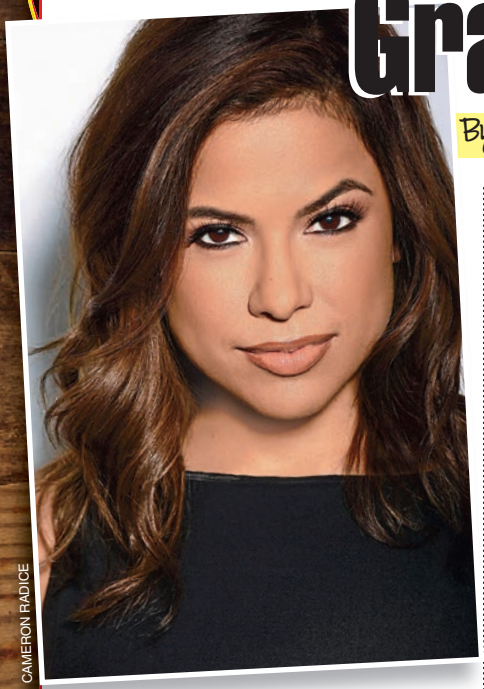
Buran: Hey, as long as the opportunities keep coming, I'll take them and I'll do my best with them! I'm just very grateful, especially after the pandemic, to be working as an actor. I never thought that I would do a soap opera, but I always wanted to try it, especially because I grew up watching soap operas, and I think it's very special to get to be a part of the GENERAL HOSPITAL family. □

Spotlight On...

Jacqueline Grace Lopez

By Mara Levinsky

(Blaze, GH)



CAMERON RADICE

Soap Opera Digest: You had to sing as part of your audition for Blaze. What song did you perform?

Jacqueline Grace Lopez: I sang "Rolling In The Deep" by Adele and I felt really good about it. I remember I was, like, hitting my leg and it was so cute because all the producers were tapping along. I love singing and it was just really fun; I didn't get nervous about it and it was just a really cool experience. I've had experiences where I've been in rooms of people and it can be a really cold room. This was the opposite, where I was getting such good energy. Everybody is so lovely on the producing side at GH.

Digest: Blaze was introduced as Linc's protégé and a possible duet partner for Chase. Tell me about working with Josh Swickard (Chase).

Lopez: Josh is so much fun! He's absolutely hysterical and really giving and present and he's a freaking beast — I'm in awe, genuinely in awe, of everybody, all of the actors on this set, but particularly the people I'm working opposite. The fact that Josh picks up lines so quickly is just mind-blowing to me. Working opposite him has been so great and we joke a lot. He's just a delight! I'm the luckiest girl to be working opposite him.

Digest: And what about Amanda Setton (Brook Lynn)?

Lopez: Amanda is so sweet and a lot of fun, as well. I've only had passing moments with her in scenes but what I really love about her is how she owns the character. I really admire that. We shot a scene at the diner where we were splitting coverage; Josh and I were at the table, and she was at the counter with Dan [Buran, Linc]. When we finished our stuff and they said, "Cut, moving on," I could hear Amanda in the background going, "That was so good!" Like, she's such a cheerleader and so encouraging and I really hope I get to do more one-on-one scenes with her because I think it would be such a great education.

Digest: What is Dan like as a scene partner?

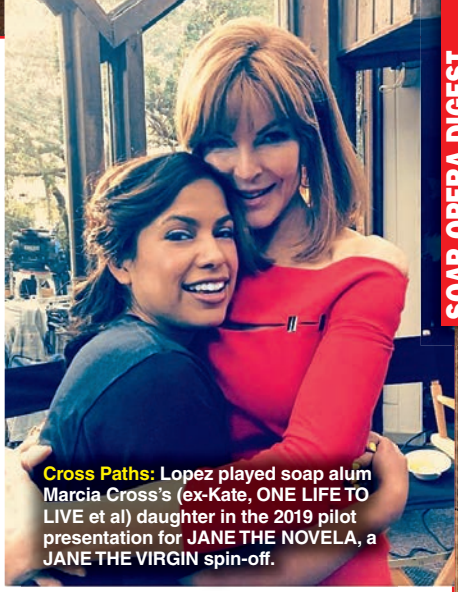
Lopez: Dan is hilarious and the sweetest guy. He is the most conscientious — like, if he has to grope me in a scene, he's basically his own intimacy coordinator! He's like, "Is this okay? Is that okay?" I'm like, "Oh, yeah, that's fine, that's cool." He's so sweet and laid-back and he goes with the flow, so when he puts on the Linc persona, it's so different. People are like, "Linc, what a creeper!" but Dan is the biggest teddy bear. He's also really good at ad-libbing and improv. One time we were in the background of a scene, the mic wasn't on us; however, we were supposed to look like we were angry with each other, and we almost ruined the take because we were joking around about turning IKEA furniture into outfits. We looked like we were having the worst fight in the world, but really, we were just talking about IKEA [*laughs*]. He is such a chameleon! He's just the most easygoing guy and for him to turn it on and be this character who is so vile, I really commend him. I love my whole group. We all like to show up to the set early and before we rehearse, we just talk and get to know each other as the people behind the characters. I've just felt very welcomed. It's just been a dream come true, working with this cast, and they've made it really fun for me to explore Blaze in these moments that I have with them.

Digest: In those scenes at Kelly's where Chase and Blaze each talked about their background as singers, I thought you and Josh had such a lovely chemistry.

Lopez: Hearing you say that is so heart-warming. First of all, I think Josh just oozes charisma. I think he could talk to a vending machine and we'd be like, "What's going on there? Is something happening with the Doritos?!" But I would love to explore that more because the way they're crafting these characters, it feels [like their connection is] organic. I know on my end, it's not a conscious effort, there is literally just something about the way these scenes are written where Blaze just feels this comfort with him, like she can let her hair down around Chase and he's so genuine. What I've gleaned about her off these past few episodes is that there's really no safe space for her in the music industry. She just hadn't had that safety, that soft place to land, and potentially have someone be a kindred spirit. I think that would be interesting TV! And I also think from an acting perspective, it would be really cool to see how that would influence her and shape her and maybe give her the strength she needs to get away from Linc.

Digest: So, you're open to sticking around for a longer run as Blaze?

Lopez: Oh, absolutely. It's been so fun exploring her and every time I get the phone call saying, "Hey, you're wanted for another episode," it's a delight. I'm always like, "Yay, another day to play!" The bittersweet situation with guest-star [roles] in general is that we get such precious time with these characters and then we have to let go of them, or at least put them on the shelf. This show has given me a character with layers and levels and depth, and if I'm given more opportunity to flesh out this character? Absolutely, sign me up!



Cross Paths: Lopez played soap alum Marcia Cross's (ex-Kate, ONE LIFE TO LIVE et al) daughter in the 2019 pilot presentation for JANE THE NOVELA, a JANE THE VIRGIN spin-off.

INSTAGRAM/LOPEZ

classic lines

Forget ABBOTT ELEMENTARY! Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

(Bill is surprised to find Carter at Brooke's house on the day of Ridge and Taylor's wedding.)
Bill: "Well, well, well. If it isn't Mr. Nuptials 'R' Us. Shouldn't you be presiding over a wedding right about now?"

(Taylor recounts the last time Brooke interrupted her wedding to Ridge.)
Taylor: "I now pronounce you man and ..."
Thomas *(whinnies)***:** "Horse."
(Thomas then reassures his mother.)
Thomas: "Brooke is not coming in here and crashing this wedding. Not on a horse. Not on a moose. Not on a cow. Not on a goose."

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

(As a bound-and-gagged Susan and Bonnie read each other's minds, Susan recounts her mystical experiences for an exasperated Bonnie.)
Bonnie: "Okay! I don't need a *Supernatural Soap Opera Digest* recap."

GENERAL HOSPITAL

(Sonny surprises Nina with a pair of diamond earrings.)
Nina: "It's for me?"
Sonny: "No, it's for me because I'm trying out a new look."

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

(Ashley allows Diane to enter the Abbott house, where she finds Nikki and Phyllis already in the living room.)
Diane *(to Ashley)***:** "I see you have your pack of hyenas lying in wait for me."

(Tucker sums up for Audra what it would mean if Ashley and Devon worked alongside him.)
Tucker: "United we'll be unstoppable and be bonded in the most powerful force on earth."
Audra: "That argument may have flown in the ashram but out here in the real world, it's laughable."

(Chelsea is stunned when Sharon offers the apartment over Crimson Lights for her to rent.)
Sharon: "You have the best coffeehouse in town downstairs."
Chelsea: "I don't know what to say."
Billy: "Say yes. Do it for the cinnamon buns."

(At dinner, Sally gobbles the last appetizer before Nick can.)
Sally: "I don't know about you but my tombstone is going to read, '*Carpe diem*'."
Nick: " 'Seize the day'."
Sally: "Oh, my God. Is that what that means? I totally thought it meant 'Seize the last bite.' Geez, I guess that's what I get for not taking Latin." □

Reality Bites: Y&R's Audra (Zuleyka Silver) tried to grin and bear it with Tucker (Trevor St. John).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Digest's Hottest Shots

Chrishell Stause (ex-Jordan, DAYS et al) attended the 2022 People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles, where she was nominated for the Reality TV Star of 2022 award. "Thank youuuuu to everyone that voted-fun meeting so many of you!" she posted. "Highlights were Shania and hanging with #SellingSunset crew. So fun when we all get together."

Sarah Michelle Gellar (ex-Kendall, ALL MY CHILDREN) also made the scene at the People's Choice Awards.

PHOTOS: ROB LATOUR/SHUTTERSTOCK

Lisa Rinna (ex-Billie, DAYS), husband Harry Hamlin and their daughters, Amelia, l., 21, and Delilah, 24, posed on the red carpet for AMC network's ANNE RICE'S MAYFAIR WITCHES, in which Harry appears. "So much fun last night!" trilled Rinna.

IMAGE PRESS AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Sherri Saum (ex-Vanessa, SUNSET BEACH et al) hit the carpet for the Los Angeles, CA premiere for Netflix's new show, THE RECRUIT.

AFF/JG/STEVEN BERGMAN

Ashley Jones (Bridget, B&B) attended the A New Way Of Life 2022 Gala in Los Angeles, CA.

FATI SADOU/ABACAPRESS.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

2022 YEAR IN BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

NEW YEAR'S EVIL

Brooke woke up on New Year's Day with a hangover and Deacon in her bed. He revealed they kissed. Unaware that Sheila had swapped her non-alcoholic champagne for the real thing, Brooke struggled to figure out why she'd abandoned her sobriety. Brooke confessed her drinking to Ridge; he was supportive.... Steffy and Thomas teamed up to reunite their parents.... Deacon professed his love for Brooke but she rejected him. When Ridge heard, he punched Deacon out, which angered Brooke and created another rift in their marriage. Ridge drew closer to Taylor. Deacon proposed to Brooke but she declined.

SHOOT TO KILL

Thomas learned that Sheila was responsible for Brooke drinking on New Year's Eve but kept mum for the sake of his parents' reconciliation. Steffy discovered the truth and confronted Sheila. Cornered, Sheila pulled out a gun and fired. The bullet hit Finn, who'd been spying on the pair and rushed in to save his wife. Sheila then shot Steffy, staged a robbery and left them for dead. Deacon discovered the bodies and called for help. Finn died; Steffy survived and clung to life. Heartbroken that she'd killed her own son, Sheila attempted to jump off the hospital roof. Taylor stopped her. Steffy woke up believing she was still married to Liam and had no memory of Finn or Hayes. Once her memory returned, Steffy fingered Sheila for the shooting and Sheila was arrested.

IN HIDING

Steffy was perplexed by Li's refusal to hold a memorial for Finn, unaware that Li was secretly keeping Finn alive in a hideaway. When Sheila suspected Li was hiding something, she escaped from prison with the aid of her old pal, Mike Guthrie. Sheila tracked down Li and was elated to discover Finn was still alive. After a fight, Li fled with Sheila in hot pursuit. During the ensuing car chase, Li's vehicle plunged into the ocean and she was presumed dead. As Sheila cared for Finn, his memory returned and he was horrified by everything that had happened. Bill found a disheveled Li, who survived the crash, and nursed her back to health. After, they rescued Finn from Sheila. Unaware that Finn was alive, a grieving Steffy fled to Europe to deal with her depression. Taylor and Ridge followed, and learned from Bill that Finn was alive. Bill took Finn to see them. Finn and Steffy tearfully reunited in Monaco. An overjoyed Ridge and Taylor shared a kiss.

Love Lives On: Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood) was overjoyed to learn Finn (Tanner Novlan) was alive.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

COME HOME

Thomas suggested to Hope that Douglas live with him at the Forrester manse. Hope reluctantly allowed it. Liam was bothered by Hope's growing attachment to Thomas as they prepped for the Hope for The Future fashion preview and confided in Brooke. The show was a hit. After, Thomas attempted to kiss Hope, which she rebuffed, stating she loved her husband.

IN BRIEF

Brooke had a dream recalling her past

A detailed recap of all the events of the last **12 months**.

loves, including Eric, Thorne, Nick, Bill and Ridge.... Taylor and Deacon bonded through therapy.... Donna returned to FC and gifted Eric with a new portrait — of him — to hang over the Forrester fireplace.... Genoa City's Nikki and Lauren visited FC.... Taylor bought Wyatt's beach house to share with Ridge.... Bill tried to reunite with Brooke, then Katie.... Logan patriarch Stephen and his girlfriend, Lucy, visited.

RUN ON

Sheila faked her death by bear mauling, leaving one of her toes behind to prove it. The Forresters were relieved. A drunk Deacon slept with a seductive redhead, who the next morning removed her mask and revealed herself as Sheila. She then cajoled Deacon into hiding her at his place. Deacon and Sheila slept together and established a bond. Once Finn and Steffy realized Sheila was still alive, she hit the road.

TAYLOR MADE

After Thomas and Brooke had a scratchy encounter chez Forrester, Child Protective Services paid a visit to Thomas. Ridge was crestfallen when he heard a recording of the call with the informant, Brooke. Turns out, it was actually Thomas who made the call using a voice-altering app. Ridge jetted to Aspen to profess his love to Taylor. The exes reunited and planned to marry. Ridge dumped Brooke, who was confused and heartbroken. Douglas discovered the truth about his father's dirty deed and confided in Steffy on Ridge and Taylor's wedding day. After Steffy learned the truth, she confronted Thomas and informed their mother. Taylor stayed quiet but at the ceremony, Steffy blurted out the truth about Thomas's deception. Ridge was furious and left town.

There She Goes: Quinn (Rena Sofer) and Carter's (Lawrence Saint-Victor) reconnection was short-lived.

SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE

Paris's mother, Grace, came to town, and determined that Zende was the man for her daughter. Paris left Zende in favor of Carter, however, which angered Grace. To get over Quinn, Carter proposed to Paris. Under the guise of playing pickleball at the club, Eric rekindled things with ex-wife Donna. Quinn gifted Eric a ring with a secret heart monitor, and after tracking his repeated palpitations, she and Bridget found him at the club in bed with Donna. Eric and Quinn split; he urged her to go to Carter. Quinn raced to stop his wedding to Paris. Carter left Paris to reunite with Quinn. Weeks later, she unexpectedly left town, leaving him heartbroken. He and Katie struck up a flirtation.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Satanic Verses: Eric (Greg Vaughan) banished the devil from Marlena (Deidre Hall, c.), only for him to jump into Allie (Lindsay Arnold).

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

The devil transformed Jan Spears into Belle, who bedded Shawn. Eric exorcised the devil from Marlena, who jumped into Johnny. He dumped Chanel shortly after they were pronounced husband and wife. Devil Johnny told Tripp that Allie and Chanel slept together, which torpedoed his engagement to Allie. Allie and Chanel began dating.... Jan claimed Shawn fathered her unborn baby. She was released from prison into Shawn's care. Jan gave birth to a boy, who she named Shawn Christian; however, the baby's real father was revealed to be Evan Frears. Jan escaped from Salem with her son.... Ciara and Ben suspected Johnny was possessed. The devil jumped into Allie, who spirited Ciara to the Horton cabin, where Ciara gave birth to a boy named Bo. Allie swiped the infant and planned to possess him, but Ben and Ciara stopped her with the help of Bo's spirit. Tripp sacrificed himself to save Allie and vanquish the devil; Bo brought him back to life. Hope gifted Ben and Ciara with a boat; they left Salem to sail the globe.

BEHIND THE MASK

Jack left town with Jennifer to work on a new paper in Boston. Abigail searched for an MIA Sarah. Gwen donned a Sarah mask and urged Xander to move on with Gwen. Abigail caught on to the ruse and was promptly sent to the same desert island where Kristen was holding the real Sarah, as well as Steve and Kayla. Kristen injected Sarah with a drug that made the latter think she was Tony's ex, Renee DuMonde. Tony and Chad rescued everyone. Xander proposed to Gwen, who accepted. Back in Salem, Maggie got Sarah an antidote; her true memories returned.

OUT AND ABOUT

Nancy confided to Chloe that she and Craig were having martial trouble. He came to town and revealed that he was gay and in a relationship with Leo Stark. Nancy began dating a paroled Clyde. Craig and Leo got engaged and planned a double wedding with Gwen and Xander. At the ceremony, Leo's spouse, Jackie Cox, showed up and exposed Leo as a gold digger. He and Craig were through. Abigail busted Gwen for her misdeeds. Xander left her and reunited with Sarah. Rafe arrested Gwen, who took a plea deal. Craig moved back to New York.

MURDER MOST FOUL

EJ was arrested for Sami's kidnapping, but EJ suspected Lucas was the culprit. Chad caught Lucas framing EJ and helped bury EJ in court. EJ was found guilty and put in prison. His cellmate was Clyde.... EJ was released from jail. He and Belle slept together.... When Abby began investigating Sami's kidnapping, Chad revealed that Lucas was to blame. Kate warned Lucas that Abigail knew the truth. Chad was heartbroken when he discovered that Abigail had been stabbed to death in their bedroom. Salem mourned the loss.... Lucas asked Roman for his blessing to marry Sami. At the ceremony, Chad revealed what Lucas had done to Sami and accused him of murdering Abigail. Sami caught EJ and Belle in bed, then left Salem. Lucas surrendered himself to the cops and was sent away.... Clyde was revealed to be Abigail's killer, which ended his near-marriage to Nancy, who returned to Manhattan and began dating Mike Horton.... Jennifer began taking pills in the wake of Abigail's death. She mowed down Gwen with her car. Gwen survived; Jennifer sought treatment.

PARTNER SWAP

Ava discovered that Nicole and Rafe hooked up. She framed Rafe for a shady crime at work. Rafe dumped her and was then acquitted. Rafe and Nicole eloped. Eric returned to town and revealed he had been defrocked for conducting the exorcism. Jada Hunter, daughter of Steve's old pal Marcus, came to town and joined the police force. She began a romance with Eric. Nicole and Eric realized they were still in love. She broke up with Rafe. Jada discovered she was pregnant, but aborted the baby after a conversation with Nicole. Eric and Nicole split; he turned to lawyer Sloan Petersen, she to EJ.

MARRY GO ROUND

Kate spirited Philip, who faked his death, out of town. Brady and Chloe reconnected.... Gabi and Li Shin began a romance and got engaged. Jake and Ava started sleeping together. Jake was shot and killed. Dr. Rolf implanted Jake's heart into Stefan's body, which he had kept alive on machines. Kristen ordered Rolf to make Jake forget about Gabi and focus on Chloe to keep Chloe away from Brady. Johnny and Ava had sex. Ava and EJ faced off. She tasked Xander with kidnapping Susan. Bonnie wound up in his trap, and after being rescued, suffered from PTSD. Ava drove Susan off the road; Susan died. Ava planted a bomb at Susan's memorial and was ultimately committed to Bayview.

PAST IMPERFECT

Abe planned a run for governor, but realized Paulina was the better candidate. Sloan blackmailed Paulina over a secret from Chanel's past: She was responsible for Sloan's mother's death. Paulina won the election; Chanel was arrested for murder. Paulina stepped down. Chanel was released.

INS AND OUTS

Alex Kiriakis, Justin's son and Sonny's brother, returned to Salem. Chanel and Allie had a threesome with him. He also bedded Sloan, but really had his eye on PR whiz Stephanie Johnson, who moved home.... Chad and Stephanie flirted.... Leo and Sonny formed a bond while Will was out of town for work.... Xander and Sarah wed.... Wendy Shin, Li's sister, came to Salem and struck up a friendship with Johnny.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

Orpheus kidnapped Marlena, Kayla and Kate and injected them with a deadly toxin. Rex worked to find a cure. Kristen offered a serum to Brady in exchange for him dumping Chloe and reuniting with her, even if in name only. He complied; the women survived.

DADDY ISSUES

Paulina's ex, the abusive TR Coates who was Lani's bio dad, came to town. TR's girlfriend, Beth, arrived and told Eli that TR was using heroin. During a drug buy, Eli showed up. TR shot him and framed the dealer. Eli lingered in a coma. When he woke up, Eli fingered TR for the shooting. Lani came upon TR menacing Paulina; she shot him dead. Paulina took the blame. Paulina and Abe married on Juneteenth. Lani was haunted by visions of her late father; she confessed to killing him and was sent to prison in Maryland. Eli moved out of town with the twins to be closer to her. Abe officially adopted Lani.

Shoot To Kill: Lani (Sal Stowers) ended T.R.'s (William Christian) life.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

End Of An Era: Carly (Laura Wright) and Sonny (Maurice Benard) called it quits.

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC

CABLE NEWS

Tracy visited with devastating news: Luke died in a cable car accident. Really, his demise was orchestrated by Victor, which Anna and Laura set out to prove. Victor, who had designs on the Ice Princess, set up Jennifer Smith to take the fall for Luke's murder, and kidnapped Charlotte to force Valentin to do his bidding. Val 'fessed up to Anna; they became lovers and he rescued Charlotte with an assist from Laura.

THE EVIL, DEAD

Peter absconded to Switzerland with Maxie. Felicia struck him dead to save her daughter. Once home, Maxie reclaimed Bailey (née Louise) from Brook Lynn and coupled up with Austin. Chase and Brook Lynn teamed up to take down Linc and began dating as she managed his fledgling music career, but he dumped her for thwarting his return to the PCPD.

STATUS CHANGE

Ned and Olivia renewed their vows and he adopted Leo.... Lucy and Martin went public with their romance.... Dante and Sam moved in together.... Terry dated Chet, then clicked with Yuri.... Marshall and Epiphany grew closer and she took the MCATs.

MOTHER LOAD

Carly divorced Sonny after catching him in bed with Nina. Nina lost a nasty court battle with Michael and Willow for visitation with Wiley. Estranged from Sonny, Michael colluded with Sonny's new hire, Dex, to take his dad down. Harmony went on a crime spree to protect her big secret: Willow is Nina's biological daughter, not hers. She was struck by a vehicle driven by Sasha; before dying, she spilled the truth about Nina and Willow to Carly. Carly kept the info to herself. Pregnant Willow was diagnosed with leukemia and needed a bone marrow donor.

CORPORATE INTRIGUE

Shawn hired Alexis to run *The Invader* before he left town.... Sonny sold Charlie's to Phyllis.... Selina strong-armed Brad into working for her and solidified business arrangements with Sonny and Curtis.... Spinelli was the secret mastermind behind Society Setups and its illegal matching algorithm.... Michael and Drew plotted to merge ELQ and Aurora, but Ned felt iced out and voted with Valentin to block the merger. This caused Carly, who had leveraged her stake in the Metro Court to gobble up Aurora stock in an effort to help Drew and Michael, to lose her half of the hotel — which Nina purchased. Drew and Carly had to keep their budding romance under wraps to avoid insider trading charges.

WOE IS ME

Reeling from the loss of baby Liam, Sasha popped pills. After a public meltdown, Sasha faced jail time, so she agreed to let new hubby

Brando be her legal guardian. Ava and Diane survived attacks by a hook-wielding killer, but Brando died from his hook-inflicted injuries, devastating Sasha.

PAPER CHASE

Marshall confessed to Curtis the real reason for abandoning him so long ago: He'd been diagnosed as schizophrenic. Curtis and Portia got engaged, but he learned he was still married to Jordan. Jordan took the rap for Stella's failure to file the divorce papers. Jordan suspected that Portia was hiding that Curtis, not Taggert, had sired Trina.

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

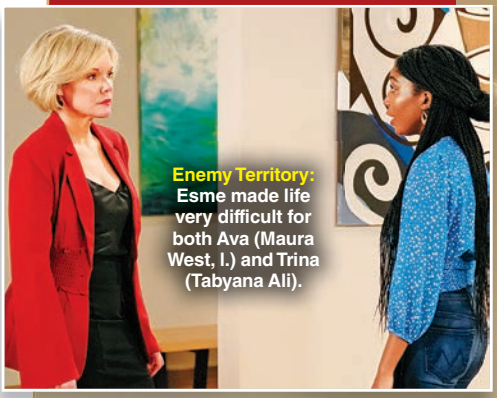
Dante's summer camp buddy, Cody, took a job at the Quartermaine stables and pursued Britt. Cody proved to be Mac's son (by Dominique), but he kept mum, angling for a fortune in diamonds (in the form of a necklace formerly belonging to Leopold Taub, his supposed father). Victor also wanted the jewelry, as it contained fragments of the Ice Princess. Lucy used herself as bait to try to get the goods on Victor. Victor held Ethan hostage to force Holly to commit crimes on his behalf, including framing Anna for Lucy's "murder". Anna and Valentin worked to prove her innocence and bring Lucy home. Holly and Robert conspired to outwit Victor. Before Holly went off to rescue Ethan, she secured the necklace for Robert.

BODY AND MIND

Liz's repressed childhood memories began to surface, causing psychological problems and issues in her new relationship with Finn. She confronted Jeff and Carolyn and was shocked to discover that she was indirectly responsible for the death of Finn's wife/Jeff's mistress, Reiko.... Britt learned that her Huntington's was progressing.

BAD TO THE BONE

On the teens' getaway to Sonny's cabin, Esme drugged Trina and recorded Josslyn and Cameron's lovemaking. Esme leaked the sex tape and framed Trina, who was arrested. Hoping to bust Esme, Spencer pretended to believe that Trina was guilty. Stung, Trina began keeping company with cop Rory. Kevin was wary of Esme's interest in Ryan — her secret father! Ryan pressured Esme to break up Nikolas and Ava. At a particularly shaky moment in his marriage, Nik slept with Esme. Ava found out and sent Esme over the side of the parapet. To conceal this, Nik made it look like Esme had fled town. Trina was ultimately exonerated, but Spencer did time (first in Spring Ridge, then in Pentonville, where Cyrus looked out for him). Spencer and Trina secretly yearned for one another. Esme resurfaced — pregnant! — and Nik locked her up in a Wyndemere tower. To save Nik's hide, Liz pretended that Nik impregnated *her*. Dex and Joss developed a mutual attraction as she grew apart from Cam. Heather returned and shared a secret with Ryan — she is Esme's mother!



Enemy Territory: Esme made life very difficult for both Ava (Maura West, l.) and Trina (Tabyana Ali).

TROY HARVEY/ABC

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Impossible Dream: Diane (Susan Walters) made tentative peace with Jack (Peter Bergman, c.) and Kyle (Michael Mealor).

BAD COMPANY

Chelsea tried and failed to reconcile with Adam. After Victor sold Newman Media to Newman Enterprises, Victoria folded the fashion platform and Chelsea was out. Adam filled in for Victoria as CEO of NE so Sally took over the reins of NM. When Chloe and Chelsea's fashion line for Fenmore's divided the besties, Chloe became Sally's COO. Victoria reclaimed her CEO post, so a disgruntled Adam walked out on the company and accepted Jack's offer as co-CEO at Jabot. To make sure Sally would keep her NM position, Adam dumped her even though he still loved her. Victoria appointed Nick as her COO. He flipped for Sally but she had a tough time moving on from Adam, who wanted her back. Adam popped the question to Sally and they had sex but she decided her heart was with Nick.

STARK REALITY

Anonymous texts led Jack to the discovery his estranged son, Keemo, had passed away. At Keemo's house in L.A., Jack was stunned to meet his adult granddaughter, Allie, and her pal "Taylor", a.k.a. the presumed-dead Diane Jenkins. Diane claimed to be a changed woman and returned to Genoa City to reconnect with Kyle. Allie moved into the Abbott home and interned at Jabot's lab. Phyllis, Ashley and Nikki plotted to run Ms. Jenkins out of town. Phyllis and Jack's relationship flatlined; he grew close to Diane. Kyle and Summer moved home with Harrison and convinced Jack to buy fashion house Marchetti. Kyle hired Diane for PR, while Phyllis sold the Grand Phoenix and persuaded Summer to bring her on board at Marchetti to keep tabs on Diane. Diane revealed that she had unwittingly helped Jeremy Stark launder money, then turned him into the Feds. Phyllis found out that Stark was released from prison and tipped him off to Diane's whereabouts. Jeremy arrived in GC.

LOVE ACTUALLY

Faith and Moses moved to Michigan to attend college.... Chelsea grew close to Rey. Rey suddenly died from a heart attack, devastating both Sharon and Chelsea.... Tessa and Mariah wed. With Christine's help, the duo started the adoption process.

LOCKE AND LOADED

Michael came out of retirement to be Victor's legal counsel. Ashland confessed to Victoria that he faked being sick in order to merge his company with Newman. As payback, Victoria tricked him out of his $500 million payout from Victor. During a heated confrontation after the truth came out, Ashland died from a blow to the head after a scuffle with Nick.

BUSINESS PLAN

After becoming CEO of Chancellor Industries, Lily convinced Billy to be

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

her COO. Lily and Devon merged their two companies as Chancellor-Winters, with Amanda and Imani becoming the legal team. Nate came aboard and clashed with Devon. Nate conspired with Victoria to stage a hostile takeover. Elena guilted Nate into confessing his plans to Devon and Lily, which got him fired. Victoria replaced Sally at Newman Media with Nate; Sally decided to start an interior design firm.

CRISIS MODE

Unhappy at Chancellor-Winters, Billy podcasted, and bonded with Chelsea. Chelsea's depression worsened when Johnny rejected her after learning she was his bio mom. Chelsea attempted suicide but Billy saved her.... Daniel returned to Genoa City to sell a gaming app and had a happy reunion with Lily. Daniel later told Phyllis that he and Heather had hit a rough patch and she went to Portugal with daughter Lucy.... Danny Romalotti returned to share the holidays with loved ones.

FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

Abby, Chance and Devon worked out shared custody of Dominic, adding Winters to the tot's name. Chance was plagued with anxiety and depression after rejoining the GCPD. A sick Dominic's health improved after Devon donated bone marrow. Abby and Chance drifted apart. Devon and Amanda's relationship was challenged after Naya had a stroke and Amanda stayed with her in Virginia. Devon and Abby had sex; Chance and Amanda caught them. Amanda broke up with Devon, while Chance insisted on a divorce.

BACK AND FORTH

Tucker McCall returned to town to win back Ashley and get closer to Devon. Tucker and Diane were connected in L.A.; Ashley pumped him for damaging info on Diane. Tucker had plans to take over both Chancellor-Winters and Jabot and run them with Ashley and Devon.... Noah accepted Nick's offer to work together at New Hope. Noah nursed a crush on Tessa, and pined after a London ex. Noah and Allie became a couple. He quit New Hope and opened a nightclub called Glam Club. His toxic ex turned out to be Audra, who was hired to help with the Chancellor-Winters IPO. Audra admitted to Noah that she miscarried his baby. Audra had sex with Tucker, who she was helping to realize his grand schemes.

Center Piece: Noah (Rory Gibson) found himself between new girlfriend Allie (Kelsey Wang, r.) and his ex, Audra (Zuleyka Silver).

so tweet

@parryshen (Brad, GH)
In every VO actor or singer's arsenal is ThroatCoat Tea and Chinese Nin Jiom Herbal Loquat Honey… plus a wrench to twist off that damn cap. #vo

TWITTER/SHEN

@ZachTinker (Sonny, DAYS)
I swear my bench press goes up at least another 45 pounds whenever there's a pretty girl around

@camryngrimes (Mariah, Y&R)
I think garlic confit might be one of the greatest inventions ever. That's it. That's the tweet.

@linzzmorgan (ex-Kristina, GH)
First, my IG was compromised and then my twitter. OY VEY. Linz 0 Technology 2

@seamusdever (ex-Ian, GH)
Just fat shamed the squirrel who's been eating my avocados and needless to say, it felt very satisfying. #NoRegrets

@KylerPettis (ex-Theo, DAYS)
My cat really be looking at me with disappointment and disgust

check it out!

@kellythiebaud (Britt, GH)
I watched an insane but great movie last night, #TriangleOfSadness . Also really loving #catastrophe it's hilarious.

@EBraeden (Victor, Y&R)
Listening to JOE BONAMASSA & Joanne Shaw Taylor… love it!! Both brilliant musicians!

@NancyLeeGrahn (Alexis, GH)
Was all set to see my dear friend @MichaelAusiello's film #SpoilerAlert today but got instant karma from eating @innout burger & now I'm at home not wanting to be me. I highly recommend u guys seeing it though. Bring Kleenex, it's a heartbreaking & heart affirming true love story.

KATHY HUTCHINS/SHUTTERSTOCK

calendar events

Jersey Boys: Meet DAYS's Greg Rikaart (Leo, l.) and Zach Tinker (Sonny) in April.

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

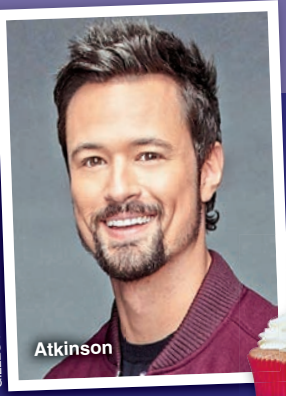
Who: GH's Nicholas Chavez (Spencer) and William Lipton (Cameron)
What: Meet and Greet
When: Sat., Jan. 28, 2023
Where: Uncle Vinnie's Comedy Club, 518 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ
How: For tickets please visit unclevinnies comedyclub.com/soap-stars-special-events.

Who: GH's Tristan Rogers (Robert) and John J. York (Mac)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sat., Feb. 18, 2023
Where: Stress Factory, 90 Church Street, New Brunswick, NJ
How: Tickets are $85 for VIP and $49 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Who: DAYS's Matthew Ashford (Jack), Brandon Barash (Stefan), Mike Manning (Charlie) and Eric Martsolf (Brady), Robert Palmer Watkins (ex-Dillon, GH) and Erik Fellows (Damian, THE BAY)
What: HOTlanta Event
When: Sat.-Sun., March 11-12, 2023
Where: Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center, 246 Perimeter Center Parkway NE, Atlanta, GA
How: Various ticket packages, including sponsorships, can be purchased at starstruckfanevents.com.

Who: DAYS's Billy Flynn (Chad), Leann Hunley (Anna), Thaao Penghlis (Tony), Greg Rikaart (Leo; Kevin, Y&R), Zach Tinker (Sonny) and Robert Scott Wilson (Alex)
What: DAYS event
When: Sat.-Sun., April 15-16, 2023
Where: Hyatt Regency, 3 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ
How: Various ticket packages, including sponsorships, can be purchased at starstruckfanevents.com.

birthdays


Atkinson

GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

Matthew Atkinson
(Thomas, B&B) 12/27
Don Diamont
(Bill, B&B) 12/31

THEIR CHOICE

Steffy tells Finn about the big meeting at Forrester, and how Brooke and Taylor told Ridge that they're choosing themselves over him.

NOT AGAIN

Bill shares his vision of a romantic future with Katie and tells her how much he needs her. Bill is devastated when Katie lets him know that she will always care for him but declines his pitch for another chance at their relationship.

ON THE RUN

Deputy Chief Baker meets with Steffy and Finn to go over where they are in finding Sheila. Sheila, meanwhile, is on the road making a getaway and realizes a cop is pulling her over. She floors the gas and flees. The officer begins a car chase with Sheila. Sheila goes faster, weaving in and out of traffic with the police in hot pursuit.

MOVING FORWARD

Carter worries about Katie being at Bill's house. Eric tells Carter that he doesn't want to see Katie get hurt. Carter assures Eric that he and Katie are getting closer and he would never do anything to harm her. Carter arrives to pick up Katie from Bill's house, and Katie says her good-byes.

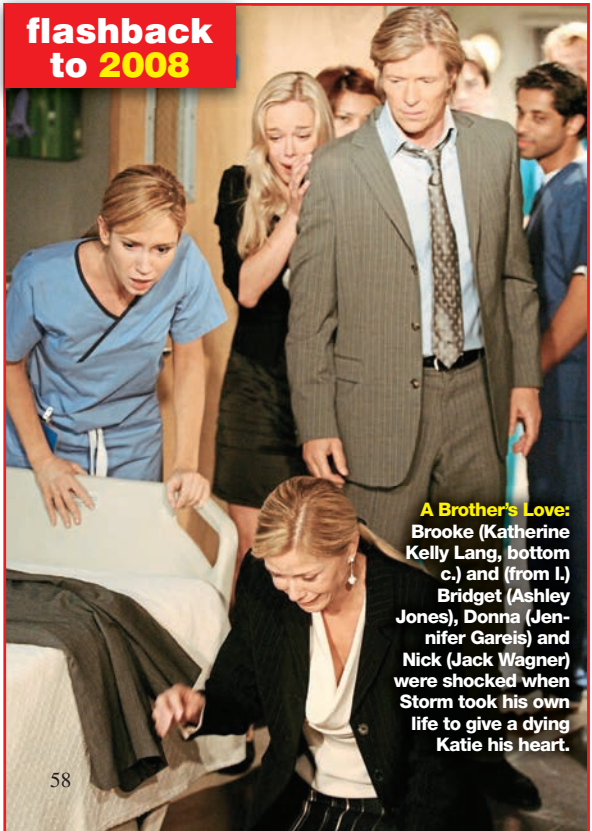
FOILED AGAIN

Steffy, Finn and Deputy Chief Baker follow the chase on the phone with the officer. Baker lets the officer know that backup is on the way. Sheila evades the patrol cop and escapes. Finn consoles Steffy, who is devastated that Sheila got away, again. Sheila is proud of herself for consistently winning.

MATTERS OF THE HEART

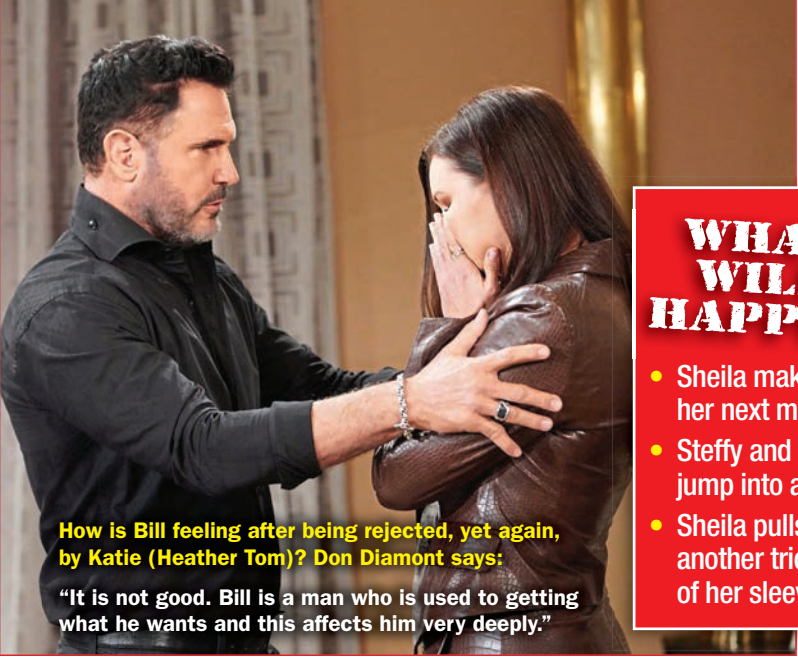
Brooke tells Katie about what happened with her, Ridge and Taylor. Katie is proud of Brooke for setting

flashback to 2008



A Brother's Love: Brooke (Katherine Kelly Lang, bottom c.) and (from l.) Bridget (Ashley Jones), Donna (Jennifer Gareis) and Nick (Jack Wagner) were shocked when Storm took his own life to give a dying Katie his heart.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI



HOWARD WISE/JPI

CBS • CBS • CBS

How is Bill feeling after being rejected, yet again, by Katie (Heather Tom)? Don Diamont says:

"It is not good. Bill is a man who is used to getting what he wants and this affects him very deeply."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Sheila makes her next move.
- Steffy and Finn jump into action.
- Sheila pulls another trick out of her sleeve.

boundaries. Katie admits to Brooke that she has a necessary appointment with her cardiovascular surgeon and is worried. Brooke and Katie talk about Storm and the sacrifice he made for Katie. Katie fears she is living on borrowed time.

Steffy informs Taylor and Carter that Sheila is alive. After, Carter goes looking for Katie, but finds Brooke. Brooke reveals to Carter that Katie is at the hospital. Carter shows up and surprises Katie, who is meeting with Dr. Grace Buckingham. Grace assures Carter that there are no issues between them after what happened with Zoe and Paris. Carter supports Katie as she receives her test results. Grace is thankful that Katie has a robust support system. Katie thanks Carter for being there for her.

HAUL OUT THE HOLLY

Finn is impressed at how Steffy has decorated their house for the holidays. They kiss before discussing how worried they are about Sheila being on the lam.

Ridge arrives at Eric's, where his dad says he doesn't want Ridge to be alone for the holidays. Eric invites Ridge to the Forrester Christmas celebration. Ridge explains to Eric how Brooke and Taylor chose themselves, and now he's unsure of what to do. Pam and Charlie join in the attempt to get Ridge to celebrate Christmas with the family.

Kelly, Steffy and Finn have a sweet discussion about love, family and Christmas. Finn and Steffy recount their miracle reunion and proclaim they are grateful for all they have.

Members of the Forrester, Logan and Spencer families and cherished friends gather at the Forrester estate to celebrate Christmas. Liam gives a touching speech about holiday traditions, and Katie and Carter share a poignant moment under the mistletoe. With hearts full of joy, hope and love, everyone gathers around the piano as Eric leads them in singing traditional Christmas carols. □

days of our lives

LIFE CHOICES

Brady is surprised when Eric shares that he's quitting Basic Black, ended things with Nicole, and has now slept with Sloan. Stefan and Chloe interrupt. When Stefan gloats that he's with Chloe now, Brady punches him. After, Brady confesses to Eric that Kristen blackmailed him into breaking up with Chloe.

John, trying to get Kristen to reveal what she's holding over Brady, lies to her that he and Marlena got into a fight over Kristen. When John "admits" he still sees the good in her, a guilty Kristen blurts that she's not a good person.

BOOM OPERATOR

Tripp arrives at the memorial to confront EJ about Ava's death, and reveals that EJ had him kidnapped. Meanwhile, Johnny laces into Ava for kidnapping Susan. Sister Mary Moira interrupts them. She tells Johnny Tripp interrupted the service; a panicked Ava runs inside to save her son. Everyone is stunned to see that Ava is alive. Suddenly, the bomb explodes! When the dust clears, Nicole and Ava are both hurt. While Marlena and Tripp save Ava, Nicole is freed.

Steve meets Rafe for an update on the case against EJ for Tripp's kidnapping. Rafe gets news of the explosion and shares that Tripp is at the hospital with Ava.... Ava regains consciousness; Rafe arrests her.

CHIMES OF FREEDOM

Paulina, distressed because she'll remain behind bars for the duration of the holidays, calls Stephanie and tells her to put out the press release announcing that she won't assume office. Meanwhile, Chanel and Allie decide to make an elaborate holiday meal for Paulina to have while she's being held. Abe arrives with a surprise for them both: Paulina has been freed! After going over the details on how Belle pulled off a miracle, they all celebrate until Sloan arrives, having heard the news. Sloan vows that Paulina and Chanel will still pay.

FLOWER POWER

Brady confides in Eric that Kristen is holding the orchid over his head in exchange for him dumping Chloe and moving her in. Meanwhile, John tries to get Kristen to tell him what she is holding over Brady, but Kristen manages to keep mum.

EX FACTOR

After learning from Marlena that Nicole was in the bomb explosion, Eric rushes to the hospital to check on Nicole. He is relieved to find out she is okay, but angered to find EJ comforting her. EJ dismisses Eric, and Nicole allows it. Later, Rafe witnesses EJ and Nicole's growing connection.

flashback to 2020

Blown Away: After a bomb exploded at Ben (Robert Scott Wilson) and Ciara's wedding, the groom went missing.

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI

How is Bonnie handling her trauma? Judi Evans says:

"She's been through a lot and nothing like this has ever happened before. It's all very new and freaking her out a lot. Although she was kidnapped and traumatized, she's survived much worse in her mind. It's really distressing."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Chad opens up to Stephanie.
- Xander surprises Sarah.
- Will comes home.
- Brady invites Kristen to Gabi and Stefan's wedding.

MENTAL HEALTH

Xander surprises Sarah at the hospital for her birthday. Xander then learns from Johnny that Ava is alive, and drops in on her. Ava tells Xander that he is going to help her escape ... unless he wants her to tell Sarah that he was her accomplice. Sarah catches Xander in Ava's room, but they cover. Ava's mental state worsens when Tripp arrives, and she mistakes him for Charlie, insisting he's the one who encouraged her to do all those bad things. Sarah sedates Ava and arranges for her to be taken to Bayview. Xander is relieved.

HELP WANTED

Sonny learns Leo is about to be evicted and offers to let him stay at the mansion through the holidays. Leo is touched. Meanwhile, Alex invites Stephanie to spend the holidays with him.

Bonnie, Justin, Alex and Sonny enjoy a pleasant evening at home until Bonnie once again sees clowns everywhere. After the boys leave, Justin gets her to open up and suggests she talk to Marlena.

FAMILY PLANNING

John takes care of Marlena, but she is more focused on playing Kristen so they can learn what she's holding over Brady. Meanwhile, Brady and Kristen have sharp words about the orchid, and Rachel walks in on the tension. They cover.

Eric wakes up with Sloan and they discuss his motives for rushing to see Nicole in the hospital. Sloan thinks he did it because he's compassionate. Meanwhile, EJ tends to Nicole as he downplays Eric's visit to see her. Later, they share a fraught moment.

Eric visits Brady and suggests that they kidnap Rachel to gain leverage over Kristen and ensure she produces the orchid that will cure Marlena, Kayla and Kate. Meanwhile, Kristen and Rachel have a scratchy encounter with Chloe.

Rex drops in for a surprise Christmas visit, much to Kate's delight. He takes blood from her to ensure the experimental treatment is still working but assures her it's just a formality.

GIFT EXCHANGE

Stefan grills Wendy about her Jakarta trip. Johnny interrupts and takes full responsibility. Later, Johnny gives Wendy a Christmas gift.

Li bonds with Arianna over cookies and presents. Meanwhile, Stefan gives Chloe tickets to the opera in New York and decides to go with her to visit her family. Gabi's unhappy to come across Stefan and Chloe in a close moment. □

general hospital

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

A distraught Obrecht blurts out to Nina and Sonny that Britt has Huntington's. Sonny comforts her, opening up about Mike's illness. Nina is moved. Meanwhile, Britt continues to conceal her condition from Brad, but informs him that she drew up her will and named him as her beneficiary, pointing out he can use the money to get out from under Selina's thumb. Brad scoffs that Britt's will won't come into play for many years. An emotional Britt and Brad agree that they are each other's family.

HIT PARADE

Joss advises Trina to be honest with Rory about her feelings for Spencer. At Kelly's, Cam bristles at the sight of Dex. Spencer orders Dex to stay away from Joss. Joss arrives and Spencer punches Dex.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS

Michael and Willow receive joyous news at their ultrasound, but Willow remains dejected over the likelihood that she will never meet her birth mother. Drew and Alexis compare notes regarding Denise and Harmony and conclude that Denise wasn't truthful with Drew. Drew confronts Denise, and Carly inwardly panics that her lie isn't holding up. Denise cops to her falsehoods, but covers for Carly. Their conversation leads Drew to suspect that Willow was taken from her birth parents against their will.

LOVE AND WAR

Ava goes ballistic when Nikolas lies to her that he impregnated Elizabeth. She vows to divorce him and take him for all he's worth. Ava summons Victor to the gallery; he is floored to learn that Nik is having a baby with Liz. Ava notes that she can make the divorce as nasty as possible, so Victor is forced to negotiate on behalf of his nephew. Later, Nik fills in Laura on Victor's role in Spencer's early release from Pentonville, and on the end of his marriage, while Ava vows to Nina that she will make Nik and Liz pay.

THE FUGITIVE

As they search for Lucy, life on the run begins to take its toll on Anna and Valentin. He does his best to reassure her that they will have a happy ending.

SOLO ARTIST

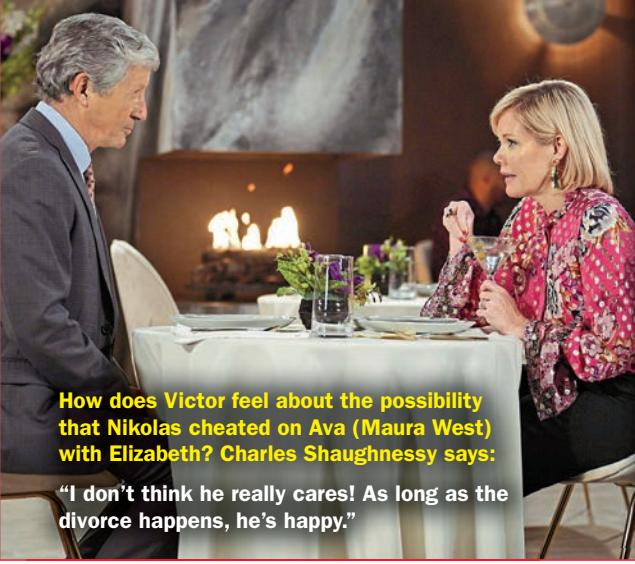
Chase refuses to perform his sched-

flashback to 2014

Howdy, Partner: Dante (Dominic Zamprogna, r.) grew close to his PCPD partner, Nathan (Ryan Paevey), whose death he mourned in 2018.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC



How does Victor feel about the possibility that Nikolas cheated on Ava (Maura West) with Elizabeth? Charles Shaughnessy says:

"I don't think he really cares! As long as the divorce happens, he's happy."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Scott has an important reminder for Elizabeth.
- Austin requires Britt's expertise.
- Nina and Obrecht take on a mission.

uled duet with Blaze and drops Brook Lynn as his manager.

OUT OF BREATH

As Rory observes, Dante briefs Jordan on the investigation into the hook attacks. Rory pockets Dante's list of suspects and heads out to an apartment, where the door slams behind him. Later, Dante arrives to find two victims, including Rory. Word of the attack reaches the group at Kelly's, as well as Alexis and Curtis. Trina races to Rory's side as doctors work to save him at G.H.; he voices his love, then succumbs to his injuries. Joss tries to console Trina. Laura's words of wisdom lead Spencer to resolve to be there for Trina. Carly and Sonny confer about beefing up security around Joss. Joss and Dex's connection deepens, but she insists he isn't the source of her issues with Cam.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Liz confirms that Esme never left the confines of the tower, meaning that Esme cannot be The Hook. Liz wants Nik to release Esme from captivity, but he insists she is still dangerous. A furious Ava lashes out at Liz, but when Liz leads Ava to believe she had a miscarriage, Ava changes her mind about seeking revenge. Nik tells Liz that she's too deep into their plan to back out of it, then informs Spencer that his marriage to Ava is truly over. Spencer is appalled when Nik details his romantic involvement with Liz. Spencer declares his intention to distance himself from the Cassadines. He is taken aback when Nik encourages the idea.

REGRETS ONLY

A well-meaning Cody tries to be a pal to Maxie, who is dejected over Austin. She agrees with his assessment that he's in no position to give relationship advice. Later, Cody senses that Sam is worried about Dante, so he enlists Mac's help in getting Sam and Dante some alone time. Dante opens up about his grief over Rory's death, while Cody bonds with Mac and nurses regret over his decision to lie about Mac being his father. □

young and restless

BABY ON BOARD?

Tessa informs Sharon that she and Mariah are meeting with a pregnant woman after New Year's to discuss the possibility of adoption. Mariah expresses concern about getting everyone's hopes up about the baby.

THE PLOT THICKENS

Kyle returns to the Abbott manse after secretly dropping Diane off at the family cabin, and Jack tells Summer that he and Kyle have a plan to deal with Jeremy Stark.

At Stark's hotel suite, Kyle accuses Jeremy of driving Diane away. Jack reiterates his offer to reimburse Stark for the money Diane owes him; Stark says he will consider it now that Diane has fled.

GAME PLAN

At Society, Lily and Devon let Daniel know that they are greenlighting Project Omega-Sphere.... When Phyllis informs Daniel that things did not work out for her at Marchetti, Daniel tells his mother to come work for him at Omega-Sphere.... Lily tells Billy that she would like to go to couples counseling.... Daniel informs Kyle and Summer that he is going to be running a new gaming division at Chancellor-Winters. Summer later asks Daniel if he would like to discuss what is going on with him, Heather and Lucy.... Daniel fights his loneliness over the holidays. Suddenly there's a knock at the door: It's Daniel's father, Danny, who surprises him and wishes him a merry Christmas.

MOVIE NIGHT

At Chelsea's apartment, Chelsea and Billy watch *It's a Wonderful Life* together and observe each other's reactions to the film. Later, Chelsea tells Adam that she would like to celebrate Christmas with him and Connor at the Newman ranch.

Adam asks Victor about Chelsea joining their holiday gathering. Nikki suggests to Victor that Adam's desire to spend Christmas with them could be a sign that he wishes to return to the family fold.

CABIN FEVER

Kyle tells Summer and Jack that he wants to spend Christmas with Diane at the cabin. Meanwhile, Jeremy makes a phone call saying he still has some business to take care of in Genoa City.

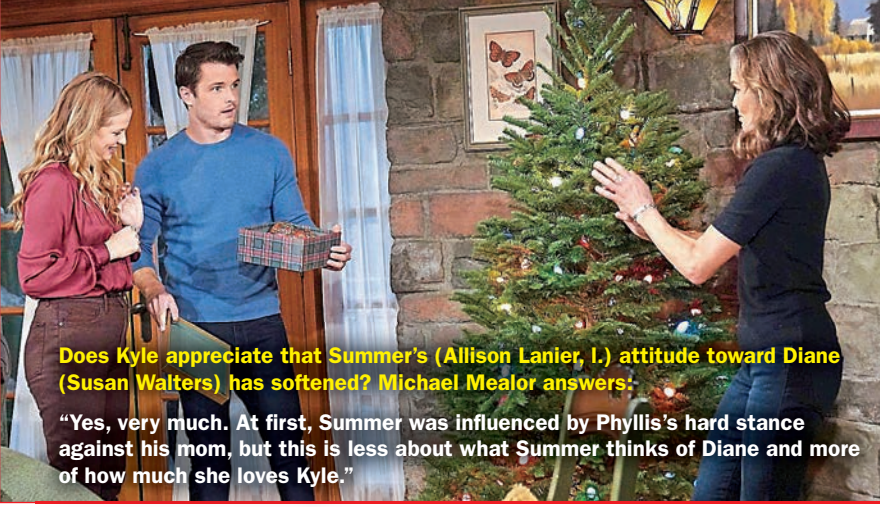
MOVING FORWARD

At Sally's Grand Phoenix suite, Nick reveals to Sally that Victor had a dossier prepared about her time in Los Angeles, but Nick is focused on knowing who she is now. They make

flashback to 2013

In Loving Memory: Danny (Michael Damian) returned to Genoa City to memorialize Katherine Chancellor.

SEAN SMITH/JPI



Does Kyle appreciate that Summer's (Allison Lanier, l.) attitude toward Diane (Susan Walters) has softened? Michael Mealor answers:

"Yes, very much. At first, Summer was influenced by Phyllis's hard stance against his mom, but this is less about what Summer thinks of Diane and more of how much she loves Kyle."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

CBS • CBS • CBS

love and determine their plans for Christmas together. Sally remarks that the coffee she was having is making her feel ill.

FINE BLEND?

Billy tells Victoria that Chelsea has a Christmas gift for Johnny; Victoria reluctantly agrees to ask Johnny how he wants to handle the situation. Johnny is on board to exchange presents with Chelsea and Connor. Victoria admits to Billy that the idea of Johnny spending time with Chelsea, Adam and Connor makes her uneasy.

TRUST ISSUES

Tucker advises Ashley to forge a new path outside of Jabot. Later, Sharon expresses her skepticism to Tucker about him being able to win back Ashley's affection.

Nate informs Audra at Society that he would hire her at Newman Media if she ever needs a job. Later, Elena admits to Nate that she does not trust Audra.

Audra demands to know where she fits into Tucker's latest business plan. They make love and afterward Ashley unexpectedly arrives. Audra hides in the bathroom; Tucker makes plans to meet Ashley for a drink.

Ashley suspects Jack and Kyle are hiding Diane from Jeremy.... Jack offers Jeremy $500,000 to leave town. When Stark tells Jack that he wishes to negotiate a deal directly with Diane, Jack agrees to take Jeremy to Diane.... Ashley tells Tucker about her recent argument with Jack about Diane; Tucker suggests that she may need some distance from her brother.

MONEY MATTERS

At the Abbott Cabin, Diane, Kyle, Summer and Harrison decorate a Christmas tree together.... Jeremy accuses Jack of leading him on a wild goose chase to locate Diane. Jack offers to pay Stark double what he initially offered him to get out of town. □

SUDOKU ANSWERS

3	4	7	5	8	9	6	1	2
9	2	8	1	4	6	7	3	5
5	1	6	2	7	3	4	8	9
7	3	2	8	6	5	9	4	1
8	6	1	4	9	2	3	5	7
4	5	9	3	1	7	8	2	6
1	7	3	6	2	8	5	9	4
6	8	4	9	5	1	2	7	3
2	9	5	7	3	4	1	6	8

ask us we've got the answers

Speaking English: Though DAYS's Susan (Stacy Haiduk) hailed from the South, EJ (Dan Feuerriegel) grew up across the pond.

Q On DAYS, where did EJ grow up? How did he get a British accent if Stefano is from Italy and Susan is from the South?

Marcy E., Wayne, NJ

A EJ was primarily raised in England and attended boarding school and university abroad, hence his accent.

Q I'm a lapsed GH viewer but I've caught a few episodes recently and I'm trying to get the lay of the land. Does TJ have a wife?

J.D., via email

A No, but he does have a domestic partner: Molly. The two formalized their relationship with a commitment ceremony in 2021.

Q Question regarding Cameron Mathison and Finola Hughes, Drew and Anna from GH: Did they overlap at all on ALL MY CHILDREN?

C.V., via email

A Yes, when Hughes was playing both Anna and Alex on AMC, she overlapped with Mathison, who played Ryan. Hughes was an AMC cast member from 1999-2003; Mathison was there from 1998-2002 and returned in 2003, staying through to the series' end in 2011.

Q I haven't watched Y&R in years but my daughter told me that it was recently revealed that Jack, Ashley and Traci's mom, Dina, gave

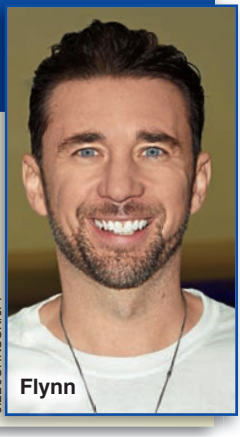
twin peek

I've been watching DEAD TO ME on Netflix and Sam McCarthy, the actor playing Charlie, reminded me so much of someone else. Eventually, I realized that it was Billy Flynn [Chad, DAYS]. They look like they could be brothers! Could you please run side-by-side photos of them? Thanks so much!

Andy O., via email

McCarthy

MATT BARON/BEI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Flynn

JILL JOHNSON/JPI

birth to a son, Eric, before Jack was even born. Is that the same young man we met back in the early '80s, when Dina returned to Genoa City years after she abandoned the Abbott family?

T.L., via email

A No, they were two different men with the same first name: Dina was romantically involved with the much-younger Eric Garrison, who we first met in 1983. When she was barely 18, Dina became pregnant by Stuart Brooks, which resulted in a baby boy. The newborn was adopted by a couple, the Vanderways, who named him Eric. Sadly, Eric died of a heart attack before he could meet his biological mother and his half siblings.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Q **My friend is a huge horror movie fan and he told me that Barbara Crampton, who I remember as Maggie on B&B, is known as a "Scream Queen", which is news to me. Is that true?**

I.S., via email

A Very true. Soap vet Crampton has dozens of fright flicks on her resumé, including such popular fare as *Body Double*, *Re-Animator*, *Puppet Master* and many others.

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of *Soap Opera Digest*?

Please send all Ask Us requests to **SODask@soapoperadigest.com**. Or if you prefer snail mail, send correspondence to: ***Soap Opera Digest*** **270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220 Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632**

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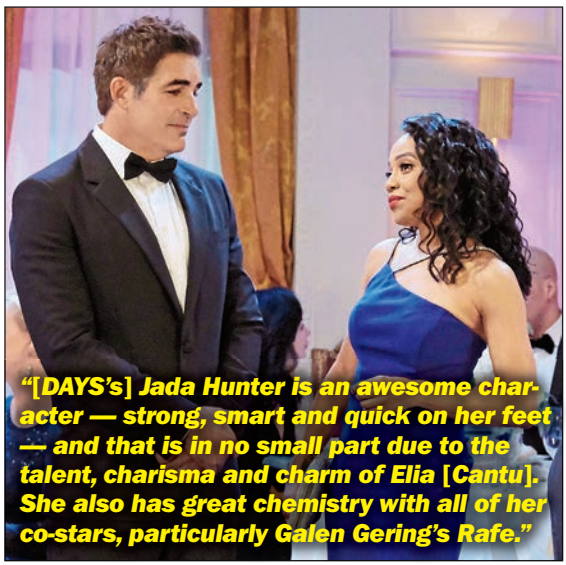
SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

HUNTER GATHERER

While I agreed with much of what was chosen in your Best & Worst of 2022 issue, I couldn't help but notice one glaring omission. In the "Best Casting Moves" section, there was no mention of Elia Cantu [Jada, DAYS]! As far as I'm concerned, she is hands down one of the best newcomers to hit soaps in years. Ms. Cantu was immediately thrown into a heavy story on DAYS and carried it off flawlessly. Jada Hunter is an awesome character — strong, smart and quick on her feet — and that is in no small part due to the talent, charisma and charm of Elia. She also has great chemistry with all of her co-stars, particularly Galen Gering's Rafe. I definitely see this wonderful actress going places. DAYS is very lucky to have her. I can only hope we will begin to see her receive the accolades she so richly deserves.

D. Lynn, via email



"[DAYS's] Jada Hunter is an awesome character — strong, smart and quick on her feet — and that is in no small part due to the talent, charisma and charm of Elia [Cantu]. She also has great chemistry with all of her co-stars, particularly Galen Gering's Rafe."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

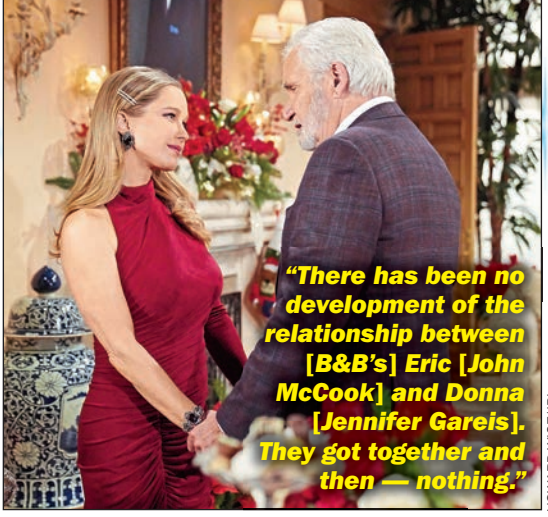
STUART ERA

Just wanted to write and sing the praises of James Patrick Stuart [Valentin, GH]. He is such a versatile actor. He is always such a romantic and charming guy that you could put him with any actress on GH and I'm sure the sparks would fly. He is so smooth. Many of the other actors don't have this chemistry. That's what GH is missing. Need more guys like Valentin. He's the perfect soap actor, but that's not to say I want to limit his career path to soaps. I also remember him as a French character named Guy on FRASIER in a snow cabin episode. Hilarious.

Renee G., Washington Twp., MI

EMOTIONALLY LACKING

I wish I could feel emotionally invested in the story of Willow's cancer on GH, but I just don't. It's been so obvious from the beginning that her leuke-


"There has been no development of the relationship between [B&B's] Eric [John McCook] and Donna [Jennifer Gareis]. They got together and then — nothing."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

mia was just a means to an end — revealing that Nina is her mother via a miracle bone marrow transplant — and so the stakes feel very low, like Willow's life isn't actually on the line and the story is just treading water until the reveal happens. And to be honest, I'm not that invested in the reveal happening, either! The Nina/Carly rivalry and the Nina/Willow rivalry both feel forced and repetitive. It is not entertaining watching these grown women scream at each other all the time. I'm not really rooting for anyone, I just want them all to get over it! I thought the plot might be getting soapy in a good way when Willow and TJ started getting closer, but that turned out to be a lame way to give Carly and Willow more reasons to yell at Nina because Nina misinterpreted Willow and TJ's interactions as romantic. I could see that causing tension and friction between a group of junior high students, but for it to get a group of adults so worked up is just silly. I can't be the only one disappointed that the show doesn't appear to actually have any plans to explore the possibilities of a Willow/TJ romance. It would give Katelyn MacMullen [Willow] and Tajh Bellow [TJ] a good storyline and they have a sweet chemistry together. Carly and Drew having to sneak around because of the insider trading thing is also silly. The other person involved in the potential Aurora/ELQ merger was Carly's own son, Michael, so wouldn't she still be at risk of an insider trading charge for buying up all that stock? This is a soap opera! Let's get the messy drama going!

C.F., via email

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I was so happy when B&B's Donna was finally reunited with her "honey bear", Eric, after so many years apart. Donna moved back into the mansion, returned to work at Forrester Creations, and now life is beautiful. At least, I assume it is. I understand that B&B is a half-hour show, and there's a lot of drama on the Brooke/Ridge/Taylor/Thomas and Steffy/Finn/Sheila fronts, but there has been no development of the relationship between Eric and Donna. They got together and then — nothing. I feel cheated. Come on, writers. All this couple does is stand in the living room and watch life happen to other people. It's time for their romance to be developed, pronto!

I.K., via email

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MAILBAG

AROUND THE DIAL

Michelle M. praises, "Alley Mills is doing great as a recast Heather Webber on GH. She's great at playing an unhinged person. I liked her as Pamela on B&B. It will be interesting what Heather tries to pull next. She will probably lose it when she comes across Austin and will think he's Franco. Keep up the great work, Alley." ... J.W. in Fishers, IN, grouses, "Hello. I am so sick of Diane on Y&R; I hope Jeremy does do away with her. Every day it's a new lie with her. Why Jack and Kyle still stick up for her is beyond me. Jack will jump in and pay off her million-dollar debt to Jeremy, then he will get all the sex he wants from her because of her boo-hooing. So sickening. And on B&B, I like Carter, but after all the women he has had lately, his 'same loving words' to each new conquest mean nothing." Martha S. wonders, "Why are you making Jack look so ignorant and gullible on Y&R? He is going to give up his family and longtime friends for this despicable, lying, deceiving woman? Makes him look a crazy, horny man." Elaine J. wonders, "Is Y&R's Jack always this naive? He is just so unbelievable, as is the storyline. The writers need to change direction but Jack is laughable."

YOU SAID IT!

"Loved that Abe on DAYS spoke to Cass Winthrop on the 12/7 episode. I watched ANOTHER WORLD and Cass was a great character. Nice nod to the past!"

— Tracey C., via email

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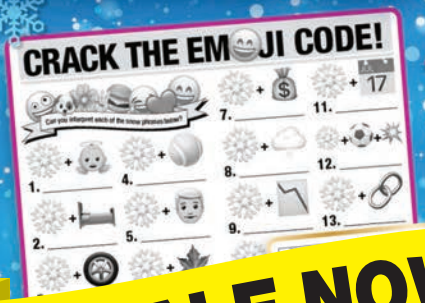

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Brytni Sarpy
(Elena, Y&R)

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"My favorite pizza topping is pineapple, don't come for me."

■ *What is your go-to comfort food?* "Soup. Udon, ramen, vegetable, miso, soon tofu, tom kha kai ... You name it, I love it."

■ *What is the screen saver on your phone?* "My screen saver is a picture of the universe, captured by NASA. It helps me keep perspective when life feels particularly hard or my problems seem too heavy."

■ *What is your favorite day of the weekend?*
"Sunday, because it's a 'me' day. A perfect Sunday for me is an early meditation and hike with my pup, a stroll to the farmer's market, and recalibrating for the next week."

■ *What is your favorite board game of all time?*
"Monopoly, but more recently I've been really into Scrabble."

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